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THE TIMES

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Homes-for-votes affair

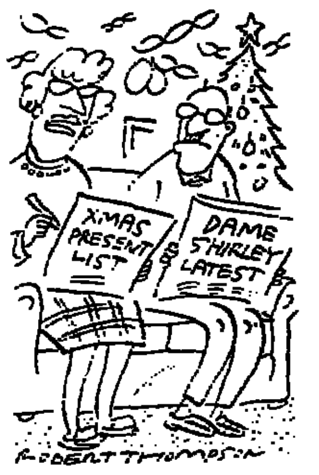
Porter is ordered to repay £27m

By Mark Henderson

THE High Court branded Dame Shirley Porter and a former colleague liars yesterday as it upheld a £27 million surcharge imposed by the district auditor in the Westminster City Council homes-for-votes affair.

The court ruled that John Magill, the Westminster district auditor, had acted lawfully and correctly when ordering the repayment from Dame Shirley, Conservative council leader at the time, and her deputy David Weeks. Mr Magill found them guilty of wilful misconduct in 1996 for masterminding a gerrymandering exercise to protect a slender Tory majority by selling discounted council flats in marginal wards.

Two council officers and a third councillor who had also been surcharged were cleared of wilful misconduct and had repayment orders quashed. There was also scathing criticism of the length and the cost of the inquiry, the way Mr Magill had been empowered to investigate and judge the case and some of his methods.



"I was going to get her socks, but I think she'd prefer the money"

The court reduced the total of the repayment, based on the sum illegally spent on the exercise plus interest, from £31.6 million to just over £27 million. Dame Shirley and Mr Weeks are "jointly and severally liable". Dame Shirley, the Tesco heiress whose fortune is estimated at £70 million, will have to pay most of it. Mr Weeks has no substantial assets and is likely to be declared bankrupt. They face costs of £2 million.

Much of Dame Shirley's wealth is thought to have been transferred to Israel and the US, where she now lives. From California she said she was "surprised" by the ruling and indicated she would seek leave to challenge it in the Court of Appeal.

Mr Magill said the outcome was a "terrific decision".

Lord Justice Rose, sitting with Mr Justice Latham and Mr Justice Keene, said the pair had lied repeatedly. "They lied to the High Court, as they had done to the auditor, because they had the ulterior purpose of altering the electorate," he said.

They knew the policy of "designated sales" was illegal, but persisted with it. "Their purpose throughout was to achieve unlawful electoral advantage," Lord Justice Rose said.

The homes-for-votes policy, entitled "building stable communities", was drawn up after the Conservatives' poor showing in the 1986 local elections, in which their majority fell from 26 to 4. To improve Tory chances in 1990, flats which fell empty in eight marginal wards were designated for sale at a discount to young professionals. The policy was "central to her [Dame

Continued on page 2, col 5

Homes for votes, page 10

ANDRÉ CAMARA

Mr and Mrs Hague with matron of honour Manon Williams at the House of Commons entrance after the ceremony

Stunning gain for Hague as Tories hail new first lady

By Andrew Pierce, political correspondent

WILLIAM and Ffion Hague flew out of Britain last night to a honeymoon hideaway after a traditional wedding ceremony in the crypt chapel at the Palace of Westminster.

The couple made only one brief public appearance together at a photo call at the entrance to the House of Commons. They were applauded by hundreds of wellwishers when they kissed four times for the benefit of the cameras.

With the new Mrs Hague radiating the glamour qualities which the Tory Party leadership lacks, a clearly proud Mr Hague shouted: "Doesn't she look beautiful?"

No one disagreed. The bride was stunning in a figure-hugging sheath dress with a drape neckline, draped cloak, and short train. The dress had been one of the best kept secrets in politics. Even the groom had been denied the name of its designer. It was made by Neil Cunningham, the young Londoner who created the much discussed black lace dress which she wore to the Tory Party conference.

The former civil servant, 29, maintained an old bridal tradition. She kept Mr Hague waiting 10 minutes in the 13th-century Gothic chapel of St Mary Undercroft. She arrived at 2.10pm. They were declared man and wife at 2.38pm.

The bride, who had been whisked into the Palace of Westminster at 9am to avoid a media scrum, made the short walk to the chapel through Westminster Hall with her father, Emrys, on her arm. She carried a bouquet of white lilies and red roses, which had been cut from her native Wales on Thursday. Mr Jenkins beamed with pride and his eyes glistened as his daughter was spontaneously applauded by Commons staff who had waited for up to an hour to try to catch a glimpse of the new first lady of the Tory Party.

They were accompanied by her elder sister, Dr Manon Williams, a private secretary to the Prince of Wales, who was the matron of honour, and her four-year-old daughter, Indeg, the bridesmaid. Indeg held grimly on to her mother's hand as she followed her aunt into the chapel.

Mr Hague took no chances on the timing. He was in place at 1.32pm, only 30 minutes after the last anti-terrorist police sniffer dogs had left. He wore a morning suit, paisley-patterned purple silk waistcoat, and yellow tie, which were made for him by the London tailor David Millings. The outfit was a gift from a group of his friends. He had a white rose buttonhole in honour of his native Yorkshire.

As Mr Hague walked through the Commons the name Mr Love flashed up on a Commons screen above his head. Andrew Love, the Labour MP for Edmonton, had begun a speech in the Commons chamber. "It is a good omen," said Nick Levy, 31, a Brussels-based lawyer, who was the best man. Mr Hague, who was relaxed and smiling, added: "Let's hope Mr Blizzard doesn't speak next." The youngest Tory leader for 200

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Flyaway holidays start

By Michael Horsnell

THE longest Christmas began last night with record numbers of passengers flying off for a seasonal break and the start of a holiday traffic build-up as many began a two-week holiday.

The exodus is the result of Christmas Eve arriving sympathetically in mid-week, and many saving part of their annual leave to bridge the gaps between this weekend and Monday, January 5.

Heathrow declared yesterday its busiest day of the year with 180,000 passengers. In the next two weeks 2.3 million travellers are expected to pass through the airport.

British Airways, which expects a bumper Christmas with half a million passengers, said the most popular destinations include India, South Africa, Kenya, Belfast, Edinburgh, Manchester and Glasgow. The airline will serve traditional Christmas fare on flights, including a total of 50,000 turkey dinners and 60,000 mince pies.

Travellers will be leaving behind mostly mild but unsettled weather, according to the London Weather Centre, and little prospect of a white Christmas. Although drivers experienced heavy traffic on the motorways and roads leading out of the cities last night, AA Roadwatch said the traffic peak would probably not be reached until Tuesday.

The CBI said that while it made sense for manufacturing industry to shut down for much of the season, the retail, service and hospitality sectors would remain hard at work. A spokesman said: "We should like to dispel the myth that Britain closes down."

Forecast, page 24

GP code reveals hard cases

By Ian Murray
Medical correspondent

PATIENTS have been given a new insight into the codes used by GPs to warn colleagues about difficult customers. Strange initials on medical notes have little to do with patients' physical conditions and a lot to do with what their doctor thinks of them.

Many people have become TATT, or tired all the time. A young mother who comes in fussing over a child is an OAP — not a pensioner but an over-anxious parent. A hypochondriac is given the TEETH treatment (tried everything else, try homoeopathy).

In the accident and emergency department a casualty is admitted as PAFO — pissed and fell over. Some may be classified as SIGs — stroppy ignorant gits.

NFB in Taunton can refer to mentally disturbed patients and means normal for Bridgwater, just as NFA in Winchester stands for normal for Andover.

Young male doctors may also be heard boasting among their colleagues about how many TUBEs they have performed on female patients. This is not a difficult throat operation but a totally unnecessary breast examination.

The secret code has been leaked by Phil Hammond, a GP and lecturer in communication at Bristol University.

England take cricket trophy

English cricket received a timely fillip before their trip to the West Indies in the New Year when Adam Hollioake's one-day side won the Champions' Trophy in Sharjah yesterday by beating West Indies by three wickets. England were seen home by Graham Thorpe and Matthew Fleming who made 70 in less than seven overs Page 29

Three Britons on board crashed jet

Three Britons were on board a jet which crashed in Indonesia yesterday, with the loss of all 104 passengers and crew. The Foreign Office said two male and one female British national were on the SilkAir Boeing 737, which went down in a marshy area on the island of Sumatra. The flight, number MI185, was bound from Jakarta to Singapore.

Tunnel deal

Eurotunnel struck an agreement with the British and French governments to operate the Channel Tunnel until 2086, extending the franchise from 2052. The move ends uncertainty over Eurotunnel's long-term prospects...Page 23

THE SATURDAY TIMES
Bigger and Better

The best for business and best for personal finance

BUSINESS
Today the best City pages report on the MMC verdict on the travel industry
Starting Page 22
with share prices

WEEKEND
MONEY
The award-winning team on how to set up an off-shore trust – and your questions about Isas
In section 2
with unit trust prices

Vision
Full guide to two weeks of holiday TV and radio

metro
CDs and books of the year

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TODAY IN THE TIMES

'We loved Pat [Phoenix]. She was like a fairy godmother'

Valerie Grove meets Lauren Booth
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'Swimmers can enjoy underwater music and dive under a glass wall to emerge outside'

Inside Bill Gates's multi-million mansion
Page 11

'Not Mortimer. It's too formal. How about Mickey?'

Lillian Disney, Walt's widow
Page 21

Beckett promises cheaper holidays

By Paul Durman

NEW controls on leading tour companies and travel agencies will ensure that holidaymakers pay less when they go on package trips abroad, the Government said yesterday.

Margaret Beckett has ordered the big five tour operators to make clear their links with some travel agent shops and airlines, to stop making discounted holidays dependent on buying the companies' own travel insurance, and not to discourage travel agents from offering discounts.

The Trade Secretary acted after a year-long inquiry into the five operators' ownership of shops that sell their holidays. The Monopolies and Mergers Commission concluded the practice was not against the public interest. The commission said that despite so-called vertical integration, where, for example, Thomson owns the Lunn Poly shops and the charter airline Britannia, there was sufficient competition in the travel industry.

But the commission recommended that the relationship should be made clear to customers, and that the practice of selling discounted holidays provided the customer bought travel insurance should stop. The commission found that companies often made large profits on the sale of insurance that inflated the cost of the holiday.

Mrs Beckett said: "Consumers are misled by the discounted offer into thinking they are receiving a greater discount on the holiday they are purchasing than in fact they are. Therefore, they shop around less and obtain less value for money than they otherwise would."

She was also putting a stop to the "most-favoured clause" — an agreement between a tour operator and travel agent which leads to some agents not offering discounts they would otherwise be prepared to offer. She said she was asking the Director-General of Fair Trading to ensure that the companies with travel-agent links made that clear at the shops and in brochures.

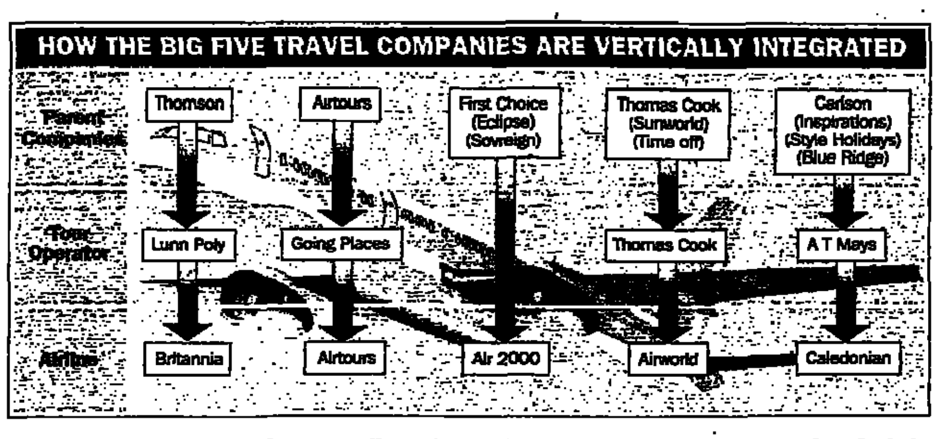
Small, independent travel agencies will be unhappy about the findings. They claim that the high street chains do not stock enough of their brochures, are primarily interested in selling their own mass-market holidays and do not offer as large a range as they could, especially for the independent traveller.

Paul Chandler, chairman of the Association of Independent Tour Operators, said the commission's report represented a missed opportunity. "There is still too much power in too few hands. But we are pleased that travel agents will have to make clear their links with holiday companies."

The commission found that Thomson and Airtours had operated a complex monopoly through "most favoured customer" agreements with travel agents. The commission ruled that this had the effect of restricting the level of discounts offered on holidays.

The Thomson Travel Group welcomed the report but said it was disappointed with the banning of the discount and insurance link, which had been "a major stimulus to price competition". The company said that it would need to consider further the implications of the changes.

HOW THE BIG FIVE TRAVEL COMPANIES ARE VERTICALLY INTEGRATED



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Japan veterans to seek apology as Emperor visits

By Alan Hamilton

VETERANS of the Second World War said last night that they would treat with dignity the first state visit to Britain next year of Emperor Akihito of Japan. But they still want a formal apology for Japanese atrocities inflicted during the Far East campaign.

Buckingham Palace announced yesterday that the Emperor, accompanied by Empress Michiko, will pay a four-day visit to London as guests of the Queen in May. It will be the first formal visit by a Japanese head of state since the present Emperor's father, Hirohito, was greeted by large but silent crowds on a state visit in 1971.

Veterans' organisations are urging their members not to stage demonstrations or protests, but some want a meeting with the Emperor during his visit to press their case for an apology and for compensation for those who suffered in Japanese labour camps between the fall of Singapore in 1942 and final victory in 1945.

Viscount Slim, president of the Burma Star Association and son of the wartime field-marshal, has asked his members to take a dignified approach to the visit. Charles Peel, the association's spokesman, said yesterday: "There will be no demonstrations. But if the Emperor were to say sorry for what happened, a lot of the ill-feeling towards the Japanese would disappear."

Harold Payne, national president of the Far East Prisoners of War Association, said he would be asking his members to take a similar stance. "There is still much ill-feeling. I do not like the Japanese, and still have no Japanese goods in my house. But Akihito is coming as guest of the Queen, for whom we have great respect. We took the same view during Hirohito's visit in 1971."

More militant campaigners say they would like a meeting with the Emperor during his visit to argue their case for compensation, and for a full apology.

Arthur Titherington, chairman of the Japanese Labour Camp Survivors' Association, which claims 10,000 members, said last night: "I cannot blame Akihito for what happened, even though his father may have had a hand in it. If I met him, I would say to him, as the supposedly omnipotent ruler of his country, to intercede with his Government to secure a meaningful apology for what happened. The apology made at the VJ-Day anniversary in 1985 was only by the Japanese Prime Minister on his own behalf; it was not an apology from the Government or the Japanese people."

Mr Titherington, who returns to court in Tokyo in February to pursue his case for compensation for his members who suffered in labour camps, added that, if he could meet the Emperor, he would press his case.

JOHN STILLWELL

The laser image of *Whistlejacket* projected on to the National Gallery last night

Drivers are unimpressed by dazzling masterpiece

HOURS after taking possession of a George Stubbs masterpiece for the nation, an attempt to celebrate by projecting a laser image of it across Trafalgar Square was halted by police who decided it was a safety hazard.

As the huge image of a horse, *Whistlejacket*, bought for £11 million, was beamed on to a wall of the National Gallery, bus drivers and motorists complained that they were being blinded.

A police spokesman said: "Drivers have said they were getting the beam of light full in their eyes as they drove past the buildings. With that amount of traffic going around the square at rush-hour time it could have caused an accident."

Officers stopped the traffic for 30 seconds so that the 10-metre-high projection could be viewed, before insisting that the laser equipment be moved. An hour later, from a different angle, *Whistlejacket*, said to be the greatest horse portrait painted in England and bought with the aid of £8 million from the Heritage Lottery Fund, again appeared in colour to gaze down on bemused tourists.

Porter

Continued from page 1

Shirley's] political objectives," and "very much her baby", the judges declared.

Dame Shirley and Mr Weeks played "inextricably intertwined" roles in framing and pursuing the policy, the judges said. Attempts were made to camouflage it by misleadingly claiming that it applied across the city when it was targeted at marginal wards.

The 92-page ruling, however, also criticised the form of Mr Magill's inquiry, which ran for seven years and cost more than £3 million. "Whether Parliament contemplated so gigantic an investigation into local authority accounts we very much doubt," Lord Justice Rose said.

Mr Magill was also criticised over an "ill-conceived" press conference in 1994 to announce his interim finding.

The three men cleared, Peter Hartley, the former housing committee chairman, Graham England, former director of housing, and Bill Phillips, former managing director, were all found to have acted improperly in abetting the policy but without knowing that it was unlawful.

Paul Hayler, formerly assistant director of housing, had his appeal stayed after he suffered a nervous breakdown. It is thought the district auditor is unlikely to enforce the surcharge in light of the success of his colleagues' appeals.

Michael Dutt, a former housing chairman who was strongly criticised in Mr Magill's interim report, committed suicide in 1994.

Mr England and Mr Hartley said they were relieved at the outcome but angry at the length of their ordeal. "Years of worry and stress have been lifted," Mr Hartley said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Council is criticised by auditor over perks

Councillors and officers on the Labour-controlled Doncaster council were yesterday severely criticised in an auditor's report for taking perks and junkets which cost the public purse hundreds of thousands of pounds. Bill Butler, the district auditor for the South Yorkshire council, already being investigated by the Fraud Squad, identified "serious failings" in the management of the authority.

Councillors and officers flew club class, accepted free gifts and even used the mayoral car to take their families to pubs. The auditor laid particular blame on lack of expenses control and criticised Peter Welsh, former council leader, and Doug Hale, the ex-chief executive.

Talks threat

Unionists yesterday threatened to quit the Stormont peace talks unless the British and Irish Governments stopped their "train of concessions" to Sinn Fein and the IRA. Martin McGuinness, Sinn Fein's chief negotiator, said that the Unionist threats were an attempt "to impose a Unionist agenda on the peace process", and urged the Government to resist them.

Theatre scrapped

Plans to build a 12,000-seater theatre at the heart of the Millennium Dome in Greenwich, southeast London, have been scrapped. Officials said they had rethought the idea because the queuing time — about 50 minutes — would have been as long as the show. Instead a performance "with lots of live entertainers" will take place in the plaza at the centre of the dome.

Bishop wins ban

A bishop was granted an injunction to stop the unofficial ordination of a deacon in a dispute over homosexuality. The Rt Rev Kenneth Gill, Acting Bishop of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, successfully stopped the ceremony planned for tomorrow at St Oswald Church. Bishop Gill had previously banned Ed Moll, 30, a lay church worker, from being ordained at the cathedral.

Hindley collapse

Myra Hindley was taken to hospital with a suspected stroke after she collapsed on hearing the news that she would never be released from prison, officials said yesterday. Last night the convicted killer was back inside Durham prison following a series of medical tests. She is known to suffer from angina, a condition aggravated by her chainsmoking.

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HAGUE-O!

AFTER A HECTIC YEAR AT WESTMINSTER

THE WEDDING OF FFION JENKINS TO WILLIAM HAGUE, LEADER OF HER MAJESTY'S OPPOSITION

William Hague and his *entourage, including senior* aide and usher Sebastian Coe, in whose Guildford house the bridegroom spent his last night as a single man, stride purposefully towards his date in the Chapel of St Mary Undercroft. The couple were pronounced man and wife in the 13th century House of Commons crypt at 2.38pm. Mr Hague later confessed that the exchanging of the vows in Welsh and English had been more nerve-racking than preparing to give a Commons speech

Mr Hague's parents, Nigel and Stella, above, and his sister, Mrs Jane MacCaw, left, were among family members at the service. The bride's father, Emry, walked up the aisle with his daughter, watched by her mother, Myra, with whom she had spent the night in Mr Hague's Dolphin Square flat

ORDER OF SERVICE

Order of Service of the marriage of William Jefferson Hague and Ffion Llywelyn Jenkins

Entry of the bride to the music of *The Hornpipe* from Handel's Water Music

The first hymn, *Blaenwern*, which was sung in Welsh

Opening prayers

Reading by Dewi Thomas, a friend of the *bride's family*

Psalm 23, arranged by Ralph Vaughan Williams, sung by Jeremy Huw Williams, *brother-in-law* of the bride

Reading by Robert Godber, Mr Hague's former politics teacher

Marriage service conducted by the Rev Cynwil Williams and Dr Donald Gray, the Speaker's chaplain

Gabriel Faure's *Cantique de Jean Racine* sung by the choir of St Margaret's Church, Westminster Abbey

The hymn *Guide Me O Thou Great Redeemer*

The blessing by the Rev Cynwil Williams

Signing of the register, to the accompaniment of Mozart's *Laudate Dominum*, Dilys Elwyn Edwards's *Gwisgoedd Nef* and Bruckner's *Christus Factus Est*

The wedding procession to the strains of a fanfare by William Mathias

IN SICKNESS & IN WELSH

Tradition rules as Tory first couple make vows

Continued from page 1

years had risen at 5am at the *home of Sebastian Coe, the* Olympic double medallist who is his chief of staff, to drive to New Covent Garden flower market. He was clearly nervous. He downed two pints of Ruddles bitter with the market traders shortly after he arrived at 6.45am.

Mr Hague, who hade to exchange his vows in Welsh and *English, said: "I am more* nervous about my vows than Prime Minister's Question Time. It is a great feeling to wake up on your wedding day — provided she turns up."

Mr Hague later went to the Carlton Club, the bastion of the Tory establishment, for brunch with his ushers. The celebrations began early. The Tory leader tucked into smoked salmon and scrambled egg washed down by champagne and 1961 Claret, to mark the year he was born. The festivities were interrupted briefly by telephone calls from Baroness Thatcher and John Major.

Then Mr Hague, flanked by his ushers, , walked through St James's Park to the House of Commons. Traffic ground to a halt, taxis tooted their horns, and cameras flashed.

The bride, who had spent the previous evening with family at the couple's flat in west London, was more low profile. She was whisked through Commons corridors to Mr Hague's suite of offices to change.

Mr Hague: ensuring that he got there on time

Clive Lever, her hairdresser from the Michaeljohn salon in Mayfair, whose clients include Lady Thatcher, arrived mid-morning.

One custom was rejected. Because she was not superstitious she declined to wear "something old, something new, something borrowed and *something* blue".

When she set finally set foot in the chapel, which was festooned with white roses and lilies and illuminated by dozens of flickering candles, every head turned. As she walked up the aisle to the strains of the Hornpipe from Handel's *Water Music* Mr Hague's face broke into a big smile. They held hands at the altar.

Canon Donald Gray, the Speaker's Chaplain, and Rev Cynwil Williams, a family friend of the bride's, officated at the 32-minute service which was conducted in English and Welsh. English was spoken first.

The bride chose not to take a vow of obedience while the groom declared he would: "Love, honour and protect her." Mr Hague spoke impeccable Welsh which was just as well. It was when Miss Jenkins taught him the words of the national anthem in her mother tongue that their friendship blossomed when *he was Welsh Secretary.*

No details were released of the readings but Tory officials confirmed that they were not biblical. They also omitted a sermon.

The haunting Psalm 23, arranged by Ralph Vaughan Williams, was sung by Jeremy Huw Williams, the brother-in-law of the bride and a noted Welsh tenor. The voices of the choir of St Margaret's Church, Westminster Abbey, soared to the rafters of the ornate chapel during the singing of *Guide Me O Thou Great Redeemer.*

They exchanged wedding rings made of Welsh gold and were pronounced man and wife after they had said "Gwnaf" — Welsh for "I do".

A champagne reception was held at the Speaker's state apartments and dinner was held in the MPs' dining rooms.

The couple left shortly before 8pm pm on a candlelit motor launch on the Thames which took them to Battersea heliport, from where they were due to be flown to Heathrow. They are thought to have spent the night in a European capital before heading for a honeymoon in exotic Indian locations. But no one was telling. They could have been anywhere. "It will be romantic but secret," a Tory official said.

Designer plays it straight for effect

By Katherine Bergen

THE bride stood by another man yesterday. Although her supposedly electrifying £2,000 black lace frock failed to light up the Tory party conference in Blackpool, Ffion Jenkins stayed true to Neil Cunningham, its designer.

Yesterday he was hoping for better reviews as he turned her out in a classical close-fitting bridal gown of ivory silk crêpe with a draped neckline. This was complemented by a full-length tulle veil, *bunched at the* crown of her head and flowing to the floor.

Figure-hugging, low-cut, buttoned down the back and with a 2ft fish-tail train, it was a sophisticated dress, the sort seen at smart London weddings.

Christine Prunty, editor of *Wedding and Home* magazine, *said that the new Mrs* Hague had gone for "less is more" and that she had been quite daring. "She didn't wear any jewellery."

Fittings at Mr Cunningham's shop just off Regent Street were convivial affairs, according to the designer: "Ffion did bring her mother and sister to fittings, of which there were three or four over about three months. We used to all have a cup of tea together."

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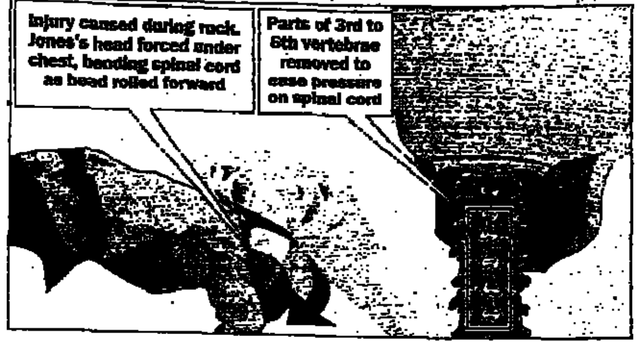
'As soon as I saw the injury I told my wife someone's neck had gone,' said Jones's father. 'I looked around the field for No 7. When there is a big man on the ground there is always this worry that it might be Gwyn. This time it was'


Injury caused during ruck. Jones's head forced under chest, bending spinal cord as head rolled forward
Parts of 3rd to 6th vertebrae removed to ease pressure on spinal cord

Captain of Wales is forced to quit rugby

By Simon de Bruxelles and Mark Souster

HUW EVANS

Jonathan Vafidis, left, with Gwyn Jones's father, Alun, describes the neck injury that has led to the Wales captain retiring at the age of 25

GYWN JONES, the Wales rugby captain who injured his neck during a match last Saturday, has been forced to retire at the age of 25.

A week after the accident, the flank forward is immobilised in University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff, where he had an operation on Wednesday to relieve pressure on his spinal cord.

Jonathan Vafidis, a consultant neurosurgeon, sat beside the player's father as he told a news conference that his patient's recovery was likely to be slow and the long-term outcome was impossible to predict. Mr Vafidis added that it was possible he would have to remain in hospital for months.

Mr Jones, a medical student at the hospital, took a two-year sabbatical from his studies to play rugby. He was hoping to lead his country in the 1999 World Cup. He was injured playing for Cardiff against Swansea as other players piled on top of him in a ruck.

His head was forced down to his chest, causing "flexion and axle stress". Mr Vafidis said that, had he not been superbly fit, with strong neck muscles, the injury could have paralysed him permanently or killed him. "If it was someone like me, I could have had a broken neck or worse. The danger with an injury to the upper spinal column is that it can stop you breathing. There is no question that Gwyn was fit to play."

A scan and the operation revealed no physical damage to his spinal cord. "He suffered flexion to the neck which is a very uncommon injury," Mr Vafidis said. "The spinal cord is bent as the head rolls forward. You sometimes see similar injuries in high-speed car accidents.

"Although his neck was not been broken, there is swelling of the spinal cord which in itself can compound the injury. The injury is still in the acute phase and, although I am optimistic and he has shown signs of improvement, the outcome is impossible to predict. He has sensation and some movement, which is a good sign, but his arms and legs are very weak and we have immobilised him to prevent any further injury."

Mr Jones, 6ft and 15 stone, knew immediately that he was seriously injured and told the team physiotherapist, Jane James, that he thought his neck was broken.

Surgeons have removed bone from four vertebrae to relieve pressure on the spinal cord. "Instead of being a closed tube, his spinal column is open so the bruising is not causing compression," Mr Vafidis said. Mr Jones is unable to raise his head and has to be fed. Only when the swelling goes down will he be allowed to try to move. Mr Vafidis said boredom, as well as discomfort and the anxiety of not knowing the outcome of his injury, were adding to Mr Jones's distress. "This is a profoundly unpleasant experience for him. He is positive most of the time, but we are not allowing him to do much."

Even if Mr Jones had not *decided to retire, there is little* chance his doctors would have allowed him to play again. Mr Vafidis told a press conference: "I don't think the question is likely to arise, but having had a cervical laminectomy it would not be advisable to play again at that level, or indeed any level, as the possibility of further injury is always there."

Mr Vafidis said that heavy padding, or a helmet such as those worn by American football players, was unlikely to have prevented the injury. A helmet could even have increased the stresses on the player's neck as it rolled forward under his chest.

Mr Vafidis said: "There is the possibility of damaging the body in any contact sport. Rugby players are well aware of the danger and adopt positions to try to prevent it."

Neck injuries are surprisingly few in professional rugby. Alun Jones, the player's father, who is a GP and has been medical officer for several Welsh squads over 25 years, said: "Goodness knows why it doesn't happen more."

Rugby Union, page 37

THE SUNDAY TIMES

PAY IT, SAM

❛Even a cursory reading of Everybody Comes to Rick's — the play on which the movie Casablanca is based — reveals that all of the characters, the smoky "gin joint" setting, the

Casablanca

exotic atmosphere, the motivations and much of the dialogue that are in the film, were originally in the play. But the playwright, Murray Burnett, got scant recognition and even less money for his masterpiece . . .❜

The Sunday Times Magazine, tomorrow

Gwyn Jones in action for Cardiff against Harlequins in the Heineken Cup in October

GP father saw injury and feared the worst

THE father of the injured Wales rugby captain yesterday described the moment he knew that someone had been badly hurt on the rugby field. He did not at first realise that it was his son.

Alun Jones, a GP who practises in Pontarddulais, was a spectator at last Saturday's Welsh League Premier Division match. Yesterday he relived the injury that ended his son's rugby-playing career. Dr Jones said he knew immediately the severity of the injury.

"As soon as I saw the injury I turned to my wife and said, 'Someone's neck has gone.' I did not see the number on the shirt, so I did not know immediately that it was Gywn. I quickly looked around the field for No 7. When there is a big man on the ground there is always this worry that it might be Gwyn. This time it was.

"He told me straight away that he thought he had broken his neck," Dr Jones said. "It was very difficult for me to say to him at the time, 'I think so too.' He could not feel anything as he left the ground.

"It is obviously devastating for all of us — my wife Esyllt, who is also a GP. It is all very well telling a child he has tonsilitis, but it is very different when it is your own son. He is a very bright medical student and knows more about this sort of thing than I do."

Mr Jones's sister, Luned, started playing rugby a month ago at Cardiff University, also at openside flanker. *Immediately* after her brother's injury, she decided to stop. "It was her decision," Dr Jones said. "When I was playing, hearing about other injuries to players never made me consider stopping. I have been the medical officer for various Welsh squads and I have never seen an injury like this, thank goodness."

Mr Jones has received hundreds of postcards, paintings and messages of support from, among others, Lawrence Dallaglio, the England captain, Wayne Erickson, who refereed the Wales-New Zealand international at Wembley on November 29, the last time Mr Jones, who won 13 caps, led his country, and the International Rugby Football Board.

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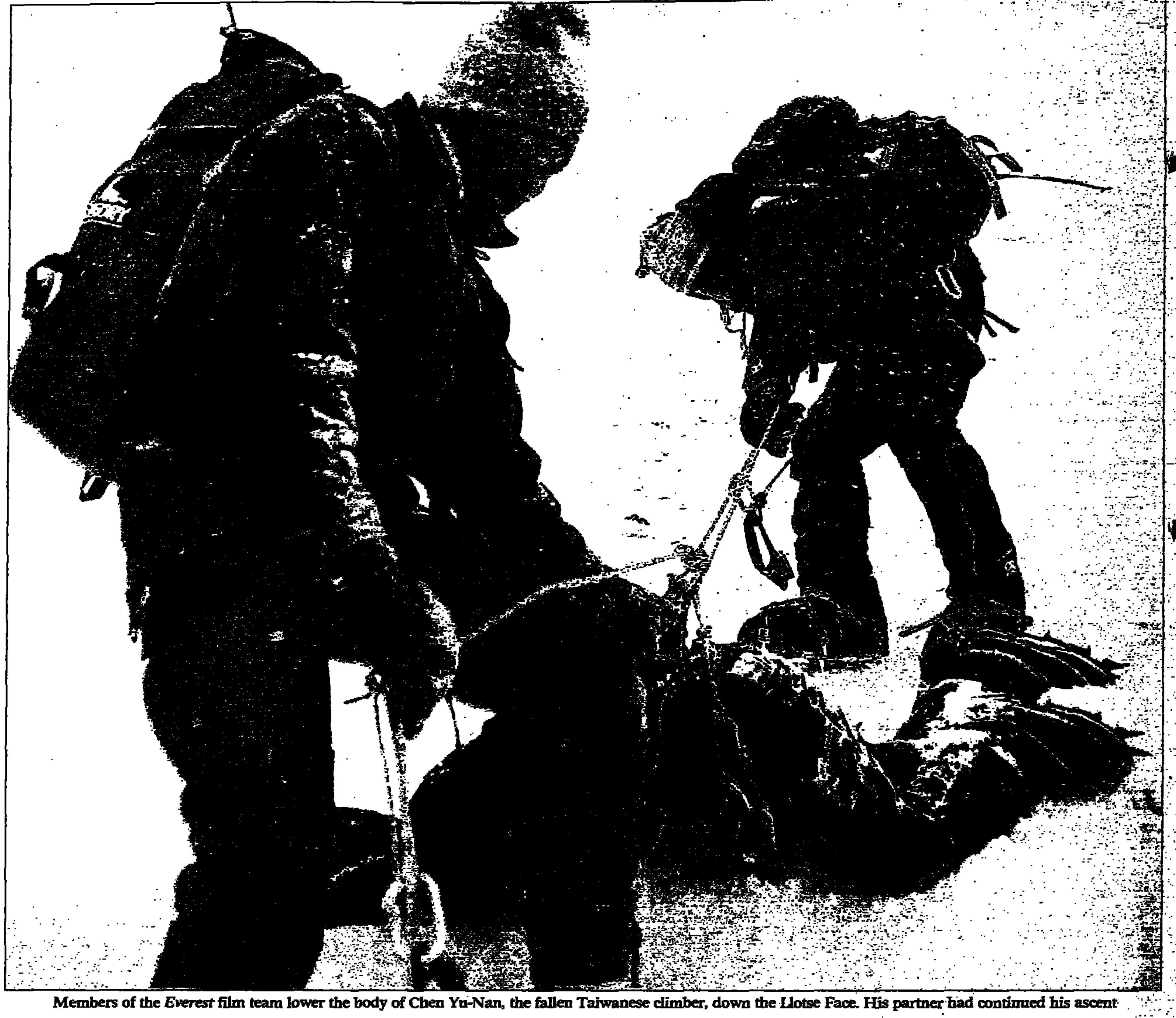
Tragedy at the top of the world

PICTURES COURTESY OF MACGILLIVRAY FREEMAN FILMS

A spectacular record of an expedition to film Everest tells how the movie crew turned rescue party on a day when eight climbers lost their lives.

Bronwen Maddox writes


Members of the *Everest* film team lower the body of Chen Yu-Nan, the fallen Taiwanese climber, down the Llotse Face. His partner had continued his ascent

A partial cadaver, which had lain on the slopes for several years, was consigned to a crevasse

Eighteen months ago a team of internationally renowned climbers and photographers set off on an expedition never before attempted: to bring back footage, shot in the spectacular Imax format, of climbing the world's highest mountain.

They succeeded, and the result is a stunning set of photographs published this month, to be followed by their film *Everest* in the spring. But they also found themselves witnesses to the tragedy of May 10, 1996, one of the greatest disasters in the history of assaults on Everest, when eight climbers died in a single day.

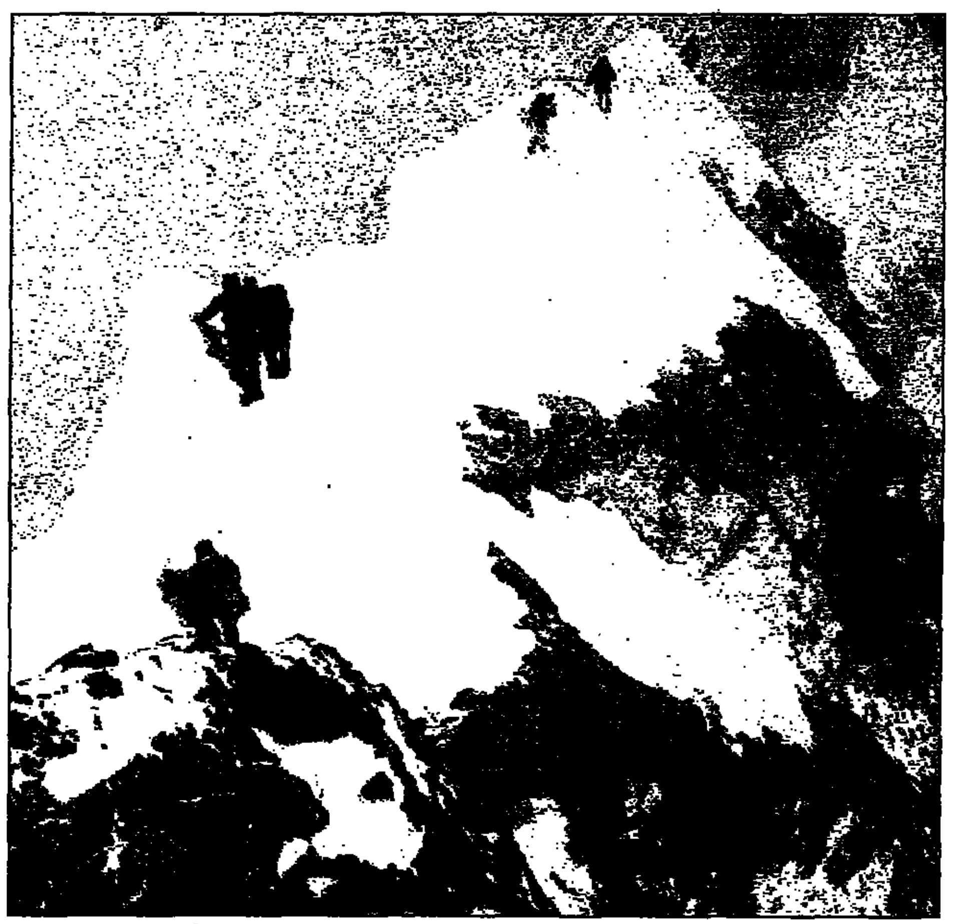
Having spent nearly $750,000 (£470,000) and two months dragging their equipment and 75 precious oxygen cylinders into place for a dash to the summit, they felt obliged to throw their resources into the rescue effort. Their contribution, confirmed in other accounts of that terrible 36 hours, did not in the end prevent them reaching the summit, but is a sombre and irresistibly gripping thread through their account of what it feels like to reach the very limit of survival.

Even from this book of stills, the value of shooting Everest in Imax format is clear. In Imax cinemas, audiences are surrounded by six channels of synchronised digital sound, and scenes are projected at ten times the resolution of a standard feature film on screens up to eight storeys tall and 100ft wide. "Just as the wide screen of Cinemascope was perfect for the landscapes of the westerns of the 1950s, the more vertical ratio aspect of Imax is perfect for Everest," one of the film-makers said.

In other words, the shots show just how disorientatingly high the Himalayas are, in a way which the now-familiar triumphant shots from the narrow platform of the summit do not. In the pictures, the human figures are terrifyingly small, crawling up gleaming sheets of ice.

Some of the best parts of the book are the scientific details, such as how the ribbon of the jetstream winds can suddenly snap downwards, sending the wind speed from 25 to 150 knots in a second, and tearing climbers off the mountain.

David Breashears, the co-director/producer and cinematographer of *Everest*, lugged the 48lb camera — a streamlined version of the normal Imax equipment — into 100ft crevasses to get a shot of climbers inching their way over on bouncing aluminium ladders. But even after that effort, he said: "I knew what people really wanted to see," and finally perched the camera on his shoulder pointing down over his feet into the abyss as he wobbled over the ladder himself.


A team of climbers descends from the Hillary Step as a storm gathers

Spent oxygen cylinders litter "the world's highest junk yard" on South Col

As the team reached base camp, the first warnings of disaster appeared. The film team was just one of 14 expeditions on the mountain, all aiming at the same narrow slot of more-or-less good weather in the first two weeks of May. Some of the commercial clients — paying up to $65,000 to be guided up the mountain — were uncomfortable with their crampons, and their ankles were already wobbling. Soon after, they found themselves dragged into the first rescue attempt, retrieving the body of a Taiwanese climber, Chen Yu-Nan, from the enthusiastic but ill-prepared Taiwanese team, which had been a source of concern to all teams on the mountain. He had fallen into a 15ft crevasse after stepping out from his tent at Camp III, without wearing crampons, to relieve himself. His partner Makalu Gau, unaware of what had happened, continued pressing on for the summit. A day later, after his condition had sharply deteriorated, the *Everest* film team radioed up the mountain to tell him his partner was dead. His response: "Oh, thank you very much."

"When you see bodies, you don't have room for hysteria or emotions. It's a survival mechanism. But we do try to bring them down, to bring some closure for their relatives," one of the film team said.

On the fateful day of May 10, they had already decided not to join the 18-hour dash for the summit, fearing crowding, as two of the largest commercial teams were both making the attempt. Instead, to their horror, sitting at Camp II, they intercepted increasingly alarming radio messages, while watching the weather worsen.

As one team member described it, she saw thick dark clouds moving extremely fast into base camp from down the valley. "It was eerie; in two seasons at base camp, I'd never seen clouds like that. They were dark, purplish-black."

Finally, and futilely, they repeatedly radioed to Rob Hall, leader of one of the expeditions, who had chosen to stay with his dying client, Doug Hansen, near the summit, knowing that he could not get him down alone, and then unable to save himself.

The team could hear Hall crying as the final rescue attempt was abandoned, and then talked to him through the night until he switched the radio off. Their own pictures of the summit, while an anticlimax after the storm, are unsurprisingly breathtaking.

☐ *Everest — Mountain without Mercy*, by Broughton Coburn. National Geographic Society, £29.95.

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Princess's family wins control of souvenir trade

By Alan Hamilton

LAWYERS representing the estate of the late Diana, Princess of Wales, have won an important court ruling that gives her family control of the potentially huge souvenir trade in mementoes of her life.

The ruling, delivered yesterday by Sir Richard Scott, the Vice-Chancellor of the Supreme Court, after a private hearing in chambers in the Chancery Division of the High Court, means that the executors of the Princess's estate will have an absolute say over which souvenirs are licensed, and will be able to veto those they regard as unsuitable or tawdry.

John Major, the former Prime Minister, who has agreed to act as a legal guardian for Prince William and Prince Harry, has been behind the move, which sought to alter the terms of the Princess's will, made in 1993 when her early death and its huge consequences were unimaginable. In his ruling, Sir Richard granted the Princess's executors extra powers.

To deal with the flood of applications for licensed souvenirs, already running into many hundreds, the court has appointed an extra executor. The Rt Rev Richard Chartres, Bishop of London, will join the late Princess's mother, Frances Shand Kydd, and her sister, Lady Sarah McCorquodale, in administering the Princess's affairs. The application to the High Court was made jointly by the solicitors Boodle Hatfield, representing the Princes, and Lawrence Graham, representing the Princess's estate. Martyn Gowar, of Lawrence Graham, said yesterday: "This ruling will enable the executors to do deals with people who wish to trade on the Princess's memory — from whom there are a very large number of applications — and to license products through the trustees of the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund."

Mr Gowar said that the ruling meant the Princess's executors had effectively gained control of her intellectual property rights, and it went a long way to safeguarding the interests of the Princes, until such time as they reached maturity.

"It is not intended, under this ruling, that the executors should make money directly. Nor does it give them the power to give anything to charity. But it does enable them to control what is produced in the Princess's name, and to ensure that a proportion of the proceeds of any authorised item are paid into the memorial fund," Mr Gowar said.

Mr Major's successful move follows a recent application by solicitors for the Memorial Fund to have the image of the late Princess registered as a trademark, to prevent exploitation by the souvenir trade. The application is being considered by the Patent Office.

Mishcon De Reya, the fund's solicitors, said they had applied for trademark status to prevent "unscrupulous exploitation" of the image of the Princess, which had already become widespread. Trademark protection would enable the fund's trustees to take action against any use of the Diana image that had not been approved by the fund and — after yesterday's High Court ruling — by the executors of her estate.

A spokeswoman for the memorial fund said yesterday that the move was not intended to restrict the legitimate use of pictures of the Princess in the media, but to protect the cultural and commercial value of her image for the benefit of her estate and the fund.

Yesterday's High Court ruling will enable the fund to begin what it says will be an "aggressive" policing campaign worldwide to stamp out souvenirs that claim to have been authorised but have not been.

Young Princes upset by 'last interview'

By Daniel McGrory and John O'Leary

CLOSE friends and aides of Diana, Princess of Wales, said last night that her sons had been upset by the publication of a controversial interview which is claimed to have been her last.

Her former head of staff, Michael Gibbins, said: "It's so distressing. You can imagine what it's doing to the family. We seriously doubt the authenticity of this interview. The Princess was very careful in talking to the media. I just can't conceive that she would have given an interview of this nature."

What has caused most concern in royal circles over the interview in *Paris-Match* are disparaging remarks the Princess is alleged to have made about the Prince of Wales and of her life with the Royal Family.

A close friend of the Princess said last night: "At the time of her death, the Prince and Princess were in fact getting on better than they had for a very long time and had resolved for the sake of their sons to build ever-better bridges."

Mr Gibbins, who is now a trustee of the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund, said: "To make overt criticisms of her ex-husband — she wouldn't have done that, in the interests of the boys."

He insisted that the Princess always informed senior staff when she intended to give an interview. "I have spoken to everybody about this and nobody knows about it. Some of the wording and phraseology in the alleged interview are not the sort of words and language the Princess would have used."

Mr Gibbins said: "If it had taken place, it would have been during the Princess's first holiday to France when Dodi [Fayed] was only present at the end, and any relationship there may have been had not developed. To talk about marriage and children would have been absolutely extraordinary."

According to a close friend, the Princess was not planning to marry Mr Fayed and viewed their relationship merely as an extended "summer romance". The claim will be made on television tomorrow.

Gulu Lalvani, an electronics tycoon and one of the Princess's confidants, has taken part in a documentary interview in which he says he spoke to her a few hours before her death. In that conversation, he says, she asserted there would be no wedding.

His claims would seem to contradict the theme of the *Paris-Match* interview in which the Princess is said to speak of her "profound love" for Mr Fayed. Buckingham Palace refused to comment on the article.

MICHEL EULER

Trevor Rees-Jones arriving at the Palais de Justice yesterday to speak to investigators

Bodyguard is questioned for third time

From Ben Macintyre in Paris

WITH his scarred face a livid reminder of the appalling injuries he suffered in the crash that killed Diana, Princess of Wales, Trevor Rees-Jones was questioned again yesterday about what he remembered of the accident.

Under heavy police guard to protect him from a scrum of photographers, Dodi Fayed's former bodyguard, the sole survivor of the crash, walked with a pronounced limp up the steps of the Palais de Justice for his two-hour interview with investigators. At one stage he stumbled and had to be helped into the building.

For the first time, Mr Rees-Jones chose not to cover his injuries with dark glasses. He appeared dazed and exhausted. He ran his hand along the deep red scar that ran across his forehead to his left eye. There were scars visible all around his eyes and another, shaped like an S, that swept from his cheekbone to the side of his jaw.

Surgeons who have rebuilt his shattered lower face describe the former paratrooper's recovery as remarkable. They say he will need more operations, including plastic surgery, but is expected to be scarred for life. He is also still suffering from partial amnesia and does not recall the events immediately preceding the crash. Hopes that he would ever be able to provide a breakthough in the investigation were fading, judicial sources said after the interview.

Mr Rees-Jones was summoned to Paris by Hervé Stephan, the magistrate leading the French judicial inquiry, for his third formal interview since the accident on August 31.

Christian Curtil, Mr Rees-Jones's lawyer, who was present during the interview, said that the bodyguard was "doing better physically" and that the question and answer session went well.

Mr Rees-Jones suffered serious face, neck and chest injuries in the crash in the Place de l'Alma underpass in which the driver, Henri Paul, also died. Doctors say that his memory may be permanently impaired.

In his two earlier interviews, he said he remembered only leaving the Ritz hotel in the front seat of the Mercedes driven by M Paul, with the Princess and Mr Fayed in the rear seats.

"There is nothing new to add, he still does not remember," a source close to the investigation said yesterday.

After the meeting, flanked by four bodyguards employed by Mohammed Al Fayed, his employer and the father of Dodi Fayed, Mr Rees-Jones left through a back entrance of the building to evade photographers. He was flown back to Britain in a private plane.

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Peter Pan flies in face of reality

Who pulls the wires behind theatre's best aerial illusion? **Damian Whitworth** goes backstage

AS STAGE stunts go, it is one of the oldest. But this week the critics hailed the flying scenes in the National Theatre's new production of *Peter Pan* as possibly the most realistic. Those who devised them fear only that their success might mark the end of the magic.

The scenes in which characters in J.M. Barrie's classic soar through a nursery window and over the tower of Parliament towards Never-Never Land have been acclaimed because there is hardly a wire to be seen.

The illusions were created by Flying by Foy, a company of three technical wizards who maintain as much secrecy about their art as any magician. A request for *The Times* to be taught how to fly was politely declined. Neither could the technology be examined.

Jem Hodgson, managing director of the company, said: "Everyone knows it's wires, and children, especially, spend hours looking for the wires, but without sounding like David Copperfield [the magician, who also likes to fly], we do want to try and retain the magic."

Flying on stage has existed since the Greeks cranked up the machinery of the first *deus ex machina* to bring gods creaking down from the heavens to resolve impossibly tangled plots two and a half millennia ago. Later liturgical and Renaissance drama frequently winched characters through the air, and by the 19th century complex arrangements of pulleys and counterweights were employed.

But the devices were obvious to the naked eye. Only after the first production in 1904 of *Peter Pan*, in which flying is essential, did the race begin to create it more realistically.

Flying by Foy was set up in America by Peter Foy, an expatriate Briton, 50 years ago and has been honing its techniques ever since. The company has been operating in this country for a dozen years.

Kevin Mullery, a stage manager who has seen the Foy team operate, says even those who work closely with the company remain uncertain quite how it does it. "They tend to bring the kit in and set it up overnight. Then they just say 'Do this' and 'Do that', and it's just like lifting a piece of scenery."

In the high roof of the theatre, a network of pulleys and wires has been erected that makes the actors go up and down, and from side to side, simultaneously. But the trick is in hiding the wires. "They do come up with the type of tricks that make you say, 'Wow, that's clever.'" Mr Mullery said. "I appreciate they want to keep the mystery."

He explained that years of trial and error with lighting and scenery techniques, and distracting the eyes of the audience from the wires, were some of the tricks used. "But some of it does defeat me," he admitted.

After a long interrogation, Mr Hodgson admitted that, if one watched the show without lighting, the wires would be clearly visible. The other key ingredient in the recipe was something mysterious that was done to the wires directly attached to the cast. He would not say what the wires are made of, how many there were or what weight the material used could hold. "We work on it to make it more invisible," was his only explanation.

The other crucial ingredient is the actors. Mr Hodgson maintains that anybody can be taught to fly but whether they will be convincing in front of an audience is another matter. The National Theatre cast worked on its movements in the studio for a month.

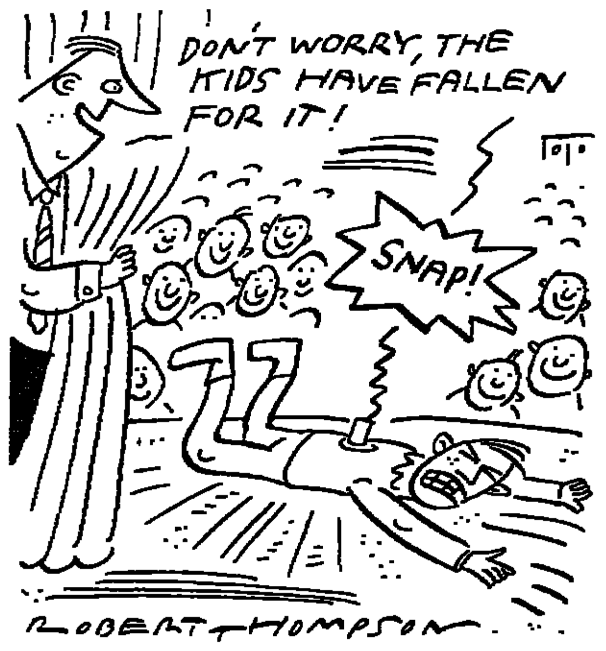
"It's an entirely different sensation for actors and hard work," Mr Hodgson said. "Some just immediately get it. Others have to really work at it until they eventually get it. Some always look like they are hanging on the end of a bit of wire."

He says that Foy has never failed to get a performer off the ground, no matter what his or her physique. It managed Frank Bruno for a pantomime, although fortunately making the illusion seamless was not a priority. "He was playing Wendy, but it was so cod it didn't really matter. It was not a serious illusion."

The company has recently been working to fly Torvill and Dean over ice and is undaunted by even the most undainty of opera tenors. "We are working with one next year who is bigger than Pavarotti, but we'll certainly get him airborne."

Mr Hodgson is worried that the firm might become a victim of its success. Now that the effects are so sleek, theatrical companies are keener than ever to have flying scenes in their seasonal shows. This year Foy has been working on about 20 productions, including ten versions of *Peter Pan*, including one in Portugal. "That's great, but it is also something we are wary of," Mr Hodgson said. "The fear is that once people have seen it, they will take it for granted. The more commonplace it becomes, the less it is special or magical." To this end the company advised the National to cut the length of flying scenes in its *Peter Pan*. "They should be short and sweet, so people come back for more," Mr Hodgson said.

Despite the acclaim, Lee Stephenson, who designed the National's *Peter Pan*, professes that he is "not happy" yet with the flights and there is "lots and lots" that could still be done to improve them. Mr Hodgson added: "Actually, I don't think we'll ever completely crack it." Such obsessive perfectionism suggests that the actors flying at 80ft above the Olivier stage may be the best so far, but are unlikely to be the most realistic ever.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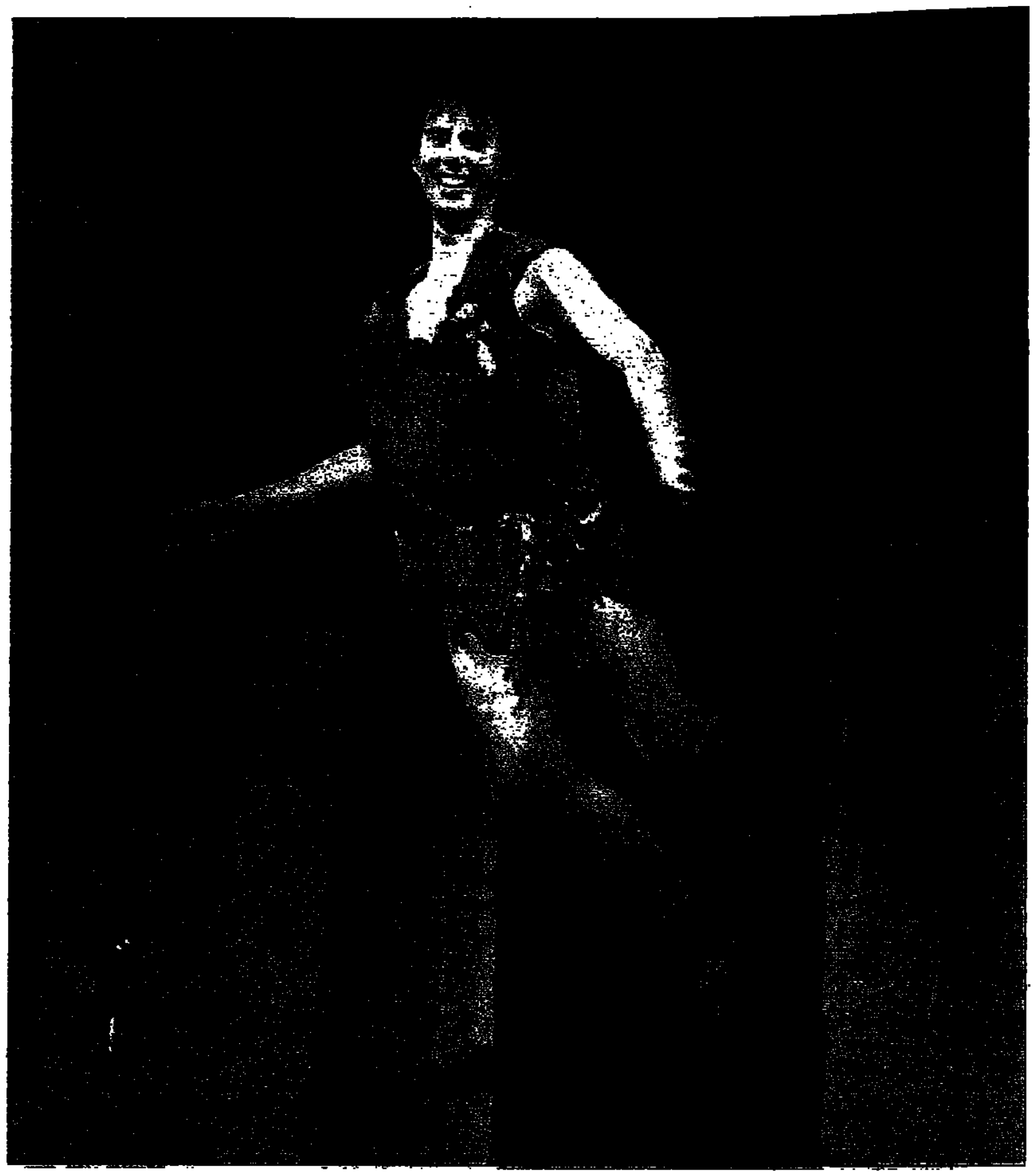

Daniel Evans as Peter Pan at the National Theatre, London. The cast practised flight movements for a month

Pick of the Pantos, Metro, pages 46, 47

Officer in boat that killed student took risks

A SENIOR naval officer whose powerboat killed an 18-year-old student was criticised by a coroner yesterday for being a risk-taker.

At the end of an inquest that lasted almost two months, Commander Nigel Williams "almost faced" a verdict of unlawful killing being recorded against him over the death of James Raine, Michael Johnston, the coroner for West Dorset, said.

Mr Raine, a first-year undergraduate at the John Moore University in Liverpool, had been a passenger on *The Phantom* boat when it was hit by *The Falcon* speedboat being driven by Commander Williams in Portland harbour on July 9.

The coroner spent several hours addressing the hearing at Dorchester before recording a verdict of accidental death. He criticised Commander Williams, 44, for his actions that day and spoke of the risks being taken even before the two boats were in the water. He said: "I'm concerned about Williams's lack of knowledge about the weight of *The Falcon*. The strops used on the crane to lower the boat into the harbour were elastic. They were untested and dangerous. To use a crane over the heads or near to other people could indicate a man ready to run risks."

Mr Johnston told Mr Raine's parents that he was faced with choosing either a verdict of unlawful killing or accidental death, and said that to record the former he had to be satisfied of gross negligence. "I feel that there is not quite enough evidence to record an unlawful killing verdict. However, I do feel that unnecessary risks were run and I hope someone will take that on board and learn some lessons," he said.

During the inquest witnesses had said that the two powerboats had exceeded the harbour speed limit by up to three times. Also, the *Falcon* was designed for two crew but [illegible] time of the [illegible] Commander Williams had been operating both the helm and the throttles.

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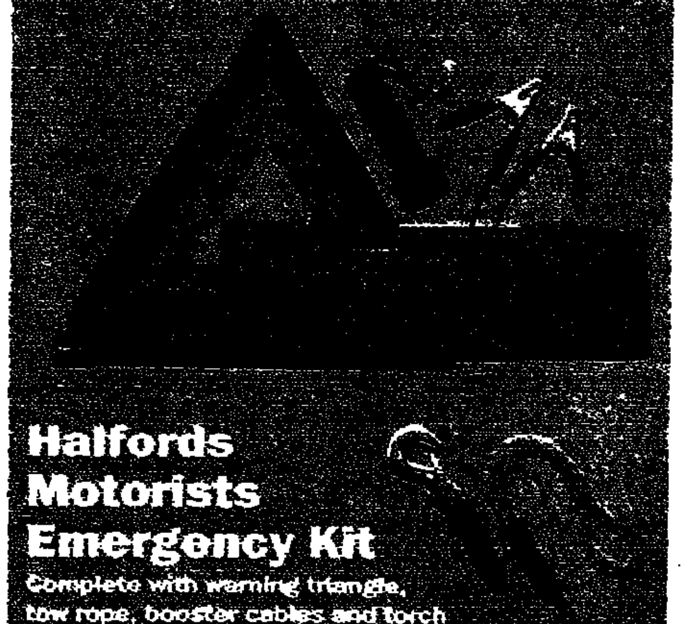

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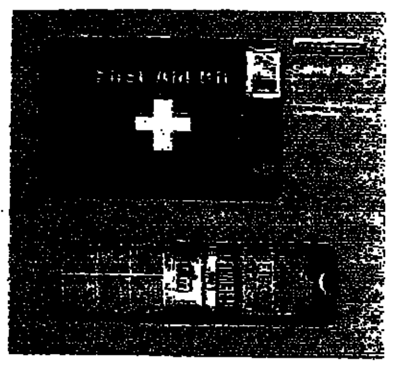

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Doctors learn by baby's survival against the odds

By A Correspondent

A SEVEN-MONTH-OLD British boy has become the first in the world to be cured of a previously fatal combination of diseases.

Specialists gave the baby, called Tom, only a million-to-one chance of survival after he was diagnosed two months ago with a severe lung infection and cancer of the skin, bone, liver and spleen.

Yesterday the doctors at Newcastle General Hospital described his recovery as "awesome" and "miraculous" and claimed it could be the way forward for treating youngsters born with the rare genetic condition Severe Combined Immunodeficiency (SCID). Babies suffering from this have at best a 30 per cent chance of surviving the chest infection and none has been known to survive cancer.

Experts at the hospital, one of two specialist SCID centres in the country, knew that traditional chemotherapy would kill the boy. Instead they gave him a bone marrow transplant, although this was a high-risk, untried treatment and doctors thought it could also have killed him.

However, within weeks, Tom's cancer was cured. Yesterday his parents, John and Kathy, looked on as their son was able to come out of the sterile "bubble" that for the past two months has protected him against infection. The family will spend Christmas at a house within the hospital grounds.

In Britain about 40 babies a year are found to be suffering from the condition, 12 of whom are treated at the Newcastle unit. They are believed to have a 50-50 chance of survival and a bone marrow transplant is considered to be the only treatment.

However, Tom's condition was complicated by the fact that he already had a viral chest infection when he was admitted to hospital, which meant his chances of survival were very small. On the day of his bone marrow transplant, doctors received test results that showed growths on his ribs, spleen and liver were cancerous. Andrew Cant, consultant paediatric immunologist at the hospital, who treated Tom, said: "When we were about to do the bone marrow transplant Tom looked like he was not far from death so when we were given the information about the cancer we knew he had as close to a zero chance of survival as you can get.

"The conventional treatment would have been to give anti-cancer drugs, but we knew no one who had been given this treatment had survived. We believed the cancer had developed because Tom had no immune system and we thought if we put in a new immune system, through a bone marrow transplant, it would get rid of the cancer.

"It was a long shot, but we decided to take the gamble and go with the bone marrow transplant — and it worked. Three weeks after the operation the cancer had disappeared." Following the surgery Tom developed pneumonitis, a severe lung infection, and doctors again feared for his survival as it kills almost every baby who develops it. However, he responded well to aggressive anti-inflammatory treatment and the infection has gone.

Ten weeks on from the surgery, Tom has no cancer, no infection and a fully functional immune system. He is on a small dose of antibiotics and drugs to boost his immune system every three weeks. "This baby has made an almost miraculous recovery from two complications of SCID that were each almost always fatal," Dr Cant said. "His condition will need to be monitored very carefully to make sure that the cancer does not return, although it seems unlikely."

SEVERE COMBINED IMMUNODEFICIENCY

- **Severe Combined Immunodeficiency (SCID) is a genetic condition in which the immune system is not properly formed.**
- **All affected children will die from infection during the first year of life if the condition is not treated.**
- **Between 30 and 40 children a year are born with the condition in Britain. The younger the child at diagnosis, the better the chances of survival.**
- **The symptoms can easily be misdiagnosed: recurrent infections, particularly chest infections, that won't go away; skin conditions; diarrhoea; the child does not put on weight and is sickly.**
- **Successful treatment involves a bone marrow transplant to replace the defective immune system with a new one that can fight off infections. Bone marrow works best if the patient and the bone marrow donor are tissue-type identical. Brothers and sisters have the best chance of having identical tissue type.**

OWEN HUMPHREYS

Tom, who has survived cancer and infections that are usually fatal. His treatment helped to point the way forward

Girl killed and sisters hurt at blackspot

By Bill Hoffmann

A GIRL aged ten was killed and her three sisters injured early yesterday when a roadsweeping lorry crashed into them at a pedestrian crossing near their home.

Police said the sisters were walking to a bank to withdraw money for Christmas shopping and planned to celebrate the birthday of one of them later in the day. Stephanie Popat died from internal injuries in the accident at Bushbury, Wolverhampton.

Stephanie's sister, Natalie, 13, fractured her skull and had facial injuries. Another sister, Marie McCormack, who was 19 yesterday, had head injuries, a broken shoulder and facial cuts after being dragged 25ft. A third sister, Selina Shaw, 3, was treated for cuts.

Police said it appeared the lorry had been travelling too fast as it came off a roundabout. The driver was identified as Roger Edwards, in his fifties, of Staffordshire. Neighbours said the crossing was a blackspot they had complained about for years.

☐ A man died and 13 people were injured when a minibus containing staff on a Christmas outing from P&O at Dover was hit by an articulated lorry in heavy rain and thick fog. Grahame House, who died at the scene, was married with three children. Three colleagues were seriously injured.

Murder case parents 'kept in dark'

By Audrey Magee

Toscan du Plantier: bludgeoned to death

THE parents of a Frenchwoman bludgeoned to death at her remote Irish holiday home last Christmas arrived in West Cork yesterday to attend a memorial Mass for their daughter. They also want to know what progress police are making in the hunt for her killer.

Georges and Marguerite Bouniol will attend a service tomorrow in the Roman Catholic Church at Goleen, the village closest to the isolated farmhouse hideaway of Sophie Toscan du Plantier, 38. It is in a ruggedly beautiful area close to Mizen Head, the most southwesterly point of Ireland.

Mme Toscan du Plantier, a television producer and the estranged wife of the president of the French Film Academy, was found there by a neighbour on the morning of December 23. She had been bludgeoned to death. She was alone on the night of the murder, and made a late-night telephone call to her husband, Daniel, before going to bed. Police believe she was attacked in the garden when she went to investigate a noise. She suffered crushing blows to the face and head, but the immediate cause of death was laceration of the brain, possibly caused by a concrete block or rock being dropped on her head. "It was a mad, frenzied attack. Really horrible," one police source said.

Officers have spent 12 months going over the details of the murder and interviewed 1,300 people, some of them three or four times. They made two arrests — Ian Bailey, an English freelance journalist, and Jules Thomas, his Welsh partner — but released both without charge.

Police now believe they have a witness who may be able to give them vital evidence. A married local woman having an affair with an old boyfriend saw a man in the area on the morning of the 23rd. She initially refused to testify, but after much cajoling and reassurance, police have persuaded her to give evidence.

Mr and Mrs Bouniol, frustrated at the lack of progress, this week criticised the Irish authorities for failing to keep them informed. They were last briefed by the police in February.

Mme Bouniol, arriving at Cork airport yesterday, said she wanted to see police compile sufficient evidence to convict the killer. The couple will discuss the case with them over the weekend. "We have come here to attend Sophie's Mass. We want to meet her friends and the people of the area and we intend to visit her home," Mme Bouniol said.

NEW IN BRIEF

Third of Britons admit to racism

Almost a third of Britons admit to being racist, according to a survey of 16,000 people throughout the European Union. But that still makes Britain, with 32 per cent of native-born citizens acknowledging racist views, among the least prejudiced of the 15 member states. Other figures include 55 per cent in Belgium, 48 per cent in France and low 40s in Denmark and Austria.

Ecstasy offence

Tasmin Watts, 19, a biochemistry student at Royal Holloway College, Egham, Surrey, was put on probation for two years for selling Ecstasy tablets. She was attempting to recover the £3,000 she had lent to her drug-dealing 41-year-old boyfriend, by whom she is seven months pregnant.

Poison gas risk

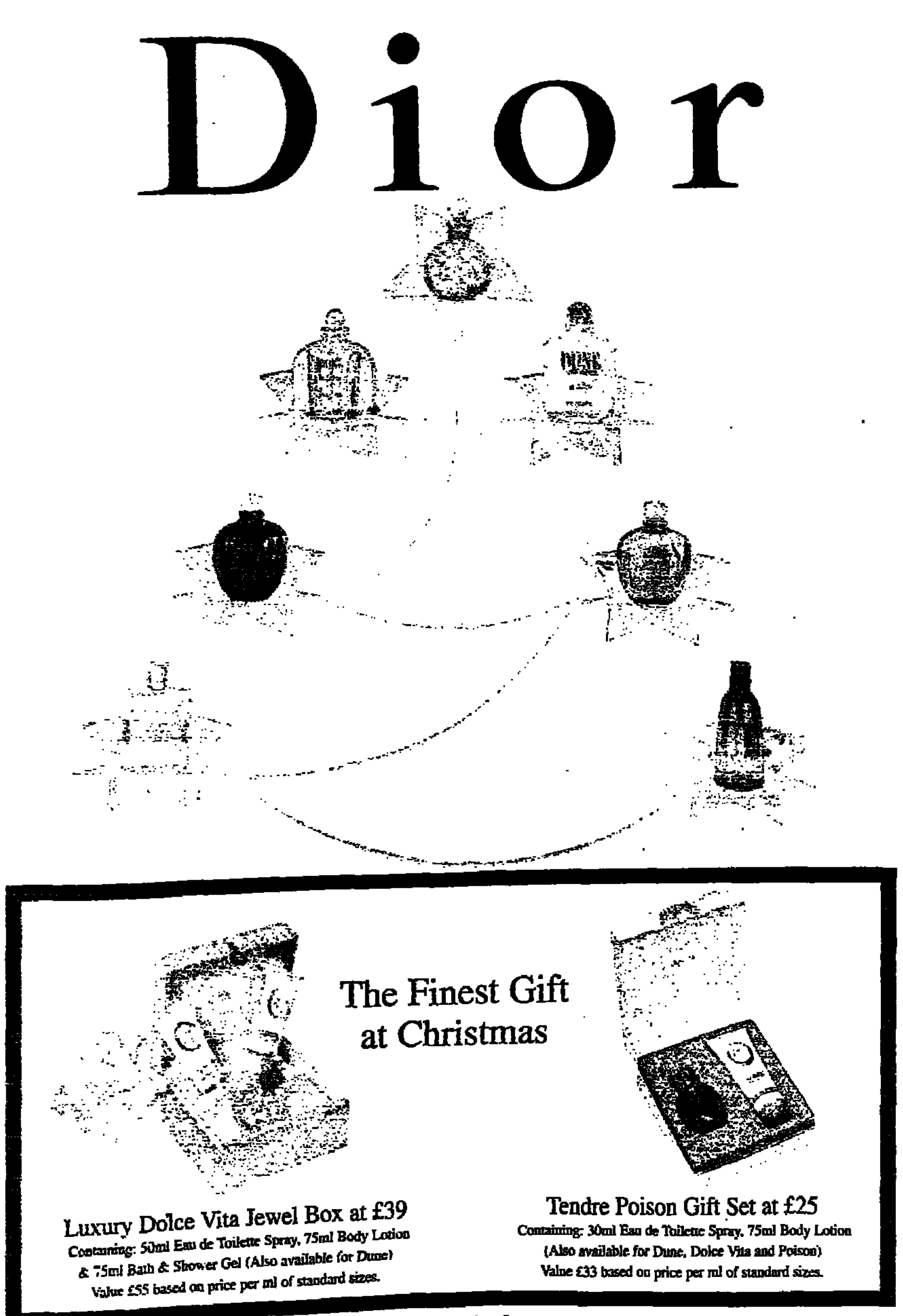
Several thousand British troops could have been affected by Iraqi nerve gas from weapons destroyed after the Gulf War. John Reid, the Armed Forces Minister, said the levels of potential exposure from a nerve gas cloud were "very unlikely" to pose any health hazard.

Firm is old hat

The firm that made the tophats for the film *Four Weddings and a Funeral* has closed after 225 years because of lack of demand. Christys, of Stockport, Greater Manchester, made toppers for Royal Ascot and royal garden parties, and bowlers for City gents.

Queen buys land

The Queen has bought 1,000 acres of land adjoining her 50,000-acre Balmoral estate in Grampian from the Earl of Airlie, Lord Chamberlain of the Royal Household. The land, southeast of Braemar, includes the 3,143 ft mountain of Tolmount. The price was not disclosed.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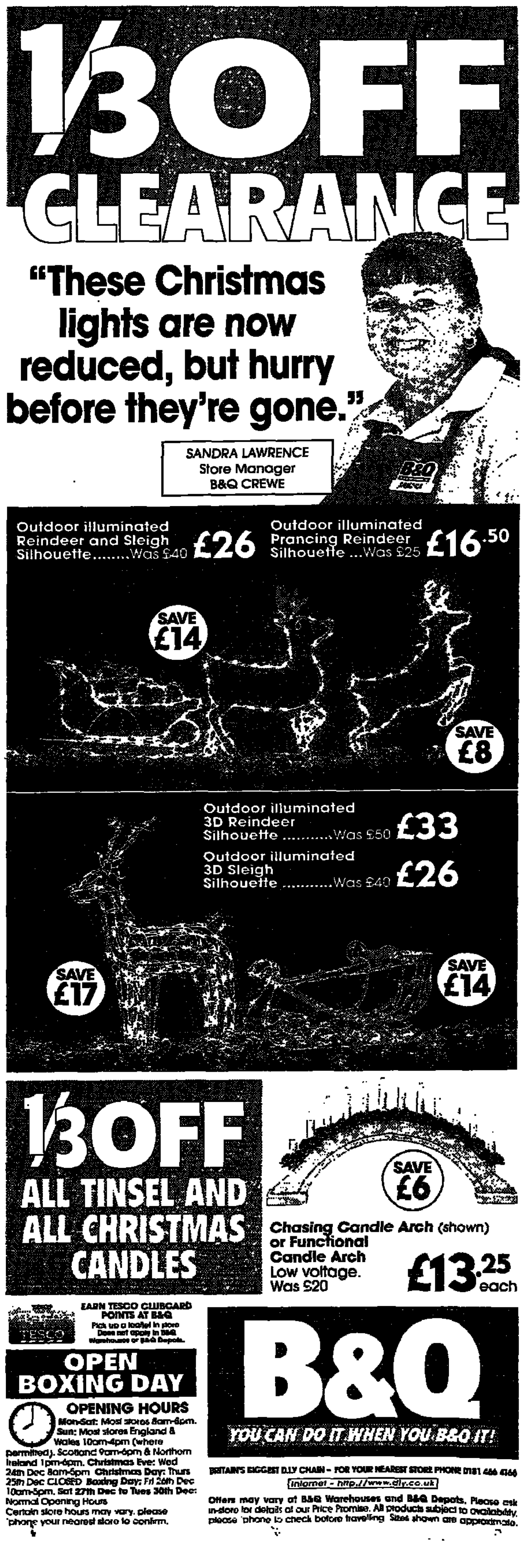
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Fear of defeat produced illegal policy

ANATOMY OF A SCANDAL

Reports by Mark Henderson

THE "homes for votes" scandal that has left Dame Shirley Porter and David Weeks facing a £27 million surcharge was rooted in an alarmingly poor showing by the Conservatives in the May 1986 local elections.

The Tories saw their majority cut from 26 to four, and came within 100 votes of losing four wards, which would have handed control to Labour. In the summer of 1986 Lady Porter and trusted councillors and officers met to develop a strategy that would ensure the party won again in 1990 to avoid what she called "the nightmare of Labour being in charge of Parliament and Whitehall".

The result of the meetings was the policy of "Building Stable Communities" which led to yesterday's High Court ruling. Under the plan, eight Labour marginal wards would be transformed into Tory strongholds by earmarking council houses and flats for sale to young professionals under right-to-buy legislation introduced by Margaret Thatcher. The idea was to fill the wards with likely Conservative-voting yuppies rather than homeless people on the waiting list, who were more likely to vote Labour.

When a flat fell vacant in one of the target wards — Bayswater, Cavendish, Hamilton Terrace, Little Venice, Millbank, St James's, Victoria and West End — it would not be relet but "designated" for sale and boarded up until a suitable buyer was found. Hundreds of flats were left unoccupied at a cost of more than £5 million a year, while waiting lists grew. Many were sold at big discounts.

The homeless were ignored, offered places in outer London boroughs such as Hillingdon, or moved to dilapidated tenements allegedly contaminated with asbestos. The aim of the policy was clearly signalled by memos and minutes bearing titles such as "economic justification for G. Mander on housing" and "immediate need to socially engineer the population in marginal wards".

Parallel to the designated sales, planning and environmental policies were slanted to gentrify the marginal wards. A total of 9,000 homes were designated for eventual sale, with the council setting a target of 500 sales a year.

To councillors and officers, there was little doubting who was in charge of the policy. "Shirley was in the driving seat," said Peter Hartley, the former chairman of housing, whose surcharge was quashed yesterday. "Her intention was to gain electoral advantage by selling more properties in marginal wards."

Support came from David Weeks, the deputy leader, Mr Hartley and Michael Dutt, who succeeded Mr Hartley as housing chairman and killed himself after being strongly criticised by the district auditor's interim report in 1994.

Equally important were the roles played by three supposedly non-politicial council employees: Bill Phillips, the managing director; Graham England, the housing director; and Paul Hayler, his deputy. The officers carried out the policy despite knowing that it was wrong and possibly unlawful, according to the auditor's report.

Mr Phillips and Mr England were cleared yesterday of wilful misconduct. Mr Hayler's appeal is pending because of ill health.

The scandal began to break in 1988, when Richard Stone, a family doctor, noticed large numbers of flats being boarded up and started to complain. The Labour opposition took up the cause, and a BBC *Panorama* documentary in July 1989 led to 13 complaints and an inquiry by John Magill, the district auditor.

In May 1990 the Conservatives increased their majority to 30, helped by having the country's second-lowest poll tax. Dame Shirley stood down as leader the next year. Mr Magill's report in 1994 suggested that six councillors and four officers were guilty of wilful misconduct, and imposed a preliminary surcharge of £21 million.

In May the final report found Dame Shirley, Mr Weeks, Mr Hartley, Mr Phillips, Mr England and Mr Hayler guilty of wilful misconduct and "jointly and severally liable" for a surcharge of £31.6 million. One councillor and two officers were cleared. The late Dr Dutt was not named in the report.

NEW LAW TO COMBAT SLEAZE

Tony Blair has backed anti-sleaze measures to be announced in the new year to end the surcharging of councillors and local government officials and introduce a law to jail or fine anyone seeking advantage from their public position. The law would apply not only to councillors and local government officers but also to ministers, civil servants, magistrates and judges. John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, is expected to publish a consultative document next month, setting out an ethical framework for local government. But it would not be retrospective and would not apply to Dame Shirley Porter.

Workaholic who kept an eye on the main chance

SHIRLEY PORTER

THE failure of Dame Shirley Porter's appeal against the multimillion-pound surcharge imposed for her role in the "homes-for-votes" scandal is a humiliation for one of local government's most flamboyant figures.

The Tesco heiress, whose £70 million fortune puts her and her husband 266th in *The Sunday Times*'s list of the richest 500 Britons, brought a swashbuckling populism to London Conservatism in the 1980s as she aped the outsider's instincts of her heroine, Margaret Thatcher.

She mixed glamour with a ruthless business sense learnt from her father, Sir Jack Cohen, the East End market trader who founded the Tesco supermarket chain, and never missed a decent photo opportunity. It was Dame Shirley who dressed up as an Indian squaw and urged passers-by on Victoria Street not to drop litter. It was Dame Shirley who walked a camel to County Hall to protest at GLC spending that "broke the camel's back". And it was Dame Shirley who drove a council "poop-scoop" machine to demonstrate to Baroness Thatcher her crusade against dog mess. She recently merited an entry in Christine Hamilton's *Bumper Book of British Battleaxes*.

Like Lady Thatcher, she was a workaholic who demanded the same from those who worked for her and brooked little in the way of dissent from her underlings. She adopted her father's mantra, "You can't do business sitting on your arse," and demanded that her team remain on call at all hours of the day. After once telephoning a council officer at 11pm only to find he was in bed, she asked in astonishment: "Why, what's the matter?"

Her emergence as a female politician second in stature only to Lady Thatcher was sudden and unexpected, and followed a life spent largely as a traditional Jewish wife and mother. Born in 1930 in Clapton, East London, her father withdrew her from Warren School in Worthing, West Sussex, before she could sit A levels, reportedly because the school governors turned her down for head girl on account of her Jewish name, and sent her to finishing school in Switzerland.

She married Leslie Porter, a businessman ten years her senior, and had children at 20 and 22, settling down as a Hampstead Garden Suburb housewife while her husband carved out a career with Tesco, eventually becoming chairman and winning a knighthood. It was only when her children grew up that she forsook the golf course for the excitement of politics.

Her political career was initially held back by what fellow Conservatives termed the "Leon Brittan problem", a euphemism for her Jewishness, but the new brand of Conservatism developed by Lady Thatcher in the late 1970s suited her instincts and propelled her to the leadership of Westminster council in 1983.

Following the exposure of the "homes-for votes" affair in a BBC *Panorama* documentary, she stepped down as council leader in 1991, taking on the ceremonial role of Lord Mayor. After two years, during which she rarely set foot in Westminster City Hall and came close to disqualification as a councillor for absenteeism, she retired from local politics in 1993 and was made a dame.

Dame Shirley, 67, now lives in Israel in the summer and America in the winter, in smart properties on the Tel Aviv seafront and in Palm Springs, California.

TONY WHITE

Dame Shirley Porter, when she was Lord Mayor of Westminster, riding in the 1992 New Year's Day parade

British assets are moved beyond auditor's grasp

HER FORTUNE

DAME SHIRLEY may escape paying more than a fraction of the £27 million surcharge for which she is liable, because she has spent three years placing her substantial wealth beyond the district auditor's grasp.

David Weeks, the other surcharged councillor, has limited assets and may be made bankrupt, but Dame Shirley is likely to be pursued for the bulk of the surcharge. Her £70 million fortune is held jointly with her husband, Sir Leslie Porter.

After John Magill, the auditor, announced he was "minded" to surcharge ten councillors and officials a total £21 million in 1994, Dame Shirley took steps to transfer formal ownership of her British assets. In 1994 her Tesco shareholding, worth £56 million, was moved to an undisclosed account and she sold her penthouse flat in Belgravia to her son Michael. Other assets are thought to have been transferred to Israel and California, where the Porters have homes.

None of the 19 million Tesco shares left to Dame Shirley by her father, the store's founder Sir Jack Cohen, remains in her sole name. Her published holding in the firm had declined from 4.8 million shares in 1990 to 3 million in 1994, before it was dismantled.

The Porter Foundation, a charity set up by the Porters in Israel, is thought to have assets of £20 million and an annual income of £1 million.

Accountants hired by Westminster council's lawyers to trace Dame Shirley's assets report that few are "attackable" in Britain.

Magill hails court ruling as 'terrific'

OTHER PLAYERS

JOHN MAGILL, the district auditor for Westminster, sees yesterday's decision as a vindication of his seven-year inquiry.

He qualified as an accountant 28 years ago, and has built a reputation as a meticulous investigator. A senior partner in Deloitte & Touche, who were paid £275 an hour for his services, he worked almost exclusively on the Westminster case from 1989 to 1996.

While he called yesterday's ruling a "terrific decision", the judges criticised the length and £3 million-plus cost of his inquiry and his decision to hold a press conference in 1994 to announce preliminary findings in which he said he was "minded" to find ten people guilty of wilful misconduct.

David Weeks, whose appeal was dismissed along with Dame Shirley's, is the only person originally surcharged still connected to the council. He is a councillor for St George's ward, though, if he is declared bankrupt, he would be forced to resign.

He was deputy leader to Dame Shirley, succeeding her in 1991. The judges found his role in the designated sales affair was "inextricably linked" to Dame Shirley's, and that he had lied to Mr Magill and the High Court when he said the policy had been abandoned after legal advice.

Peter Hartley, who sat on the council from 1977 to 1988, was the only councillor whose appeal was allowed. He resigned after taking the blame for its sale of three cemeteries to speculators for 15p, and now runs a video shop. As chairman of the housing committee between 1986 and 1988, he presided over the introduction of the designated sales policy. The judges decided that, while guilty of misconduct for promoting a policy he knew had been developed with an unlawful purpose, he was not guilty of wilful misconduct because his own objective, selling as many houses as possible, had been lawful.

Bill Phillips, managing director of the council from 1987 to 1991, was found guilty of misconduct but not of wilful misconduct for carrying out a policy he knew was improper. The misconduct was not wilful because he did not know the policy was unlawful.

Graham England, director of housing, was moved to the council's external relations department when the scandal broke. He was made redundant in September days before the appeal started. His appeal succeeded because he was found not to have been aware that the policy he was operating was unlawful. The court also accepted that Mr England had advised Dame Shirley that the policy was wrong.

Paul Hayler, assistant director of housing, had his appeal stayed when he suffered a nervous breakdown, which also led to his retirement from the council in September. He helped to disguise a policy he knew was unlawful.

Michael Dutt, who was not named in the Magill report, committed suicide after he was strongly criticised in Mr Magill's interim findings in 1994. A GP, he succeeded Mr Hartley as co-chairman of the housing committee with Judith Warner, a councillor cleared of wrongdoing.

Notice to Halifax saving and banking customers.

The Halifax is happy to announce another interest rate increase for the New Year on its saving and certain banking products effective from 1st January 1998.

ACCOUNT	UK rates				Non-resident rates†		Non-personal rates			
	GROSS p.a. %	GROSS C.A.R. %	NET p.a. %	NET C.A.R. %	GROSS p.a. %	GROSS C.A.R. %	GROSS p.a. %	GROSS C.A.R. %	NET p.a. %	NET C.A.R. %
HALIFAX TESSA 2 Variable Rate	7.25	–	–	–	7.25	–	–	–	–	–
Including maturity bonus	7.71	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Matured TESSA	7.25	–	5.80	–	7.25	–	–	–	–	–
BONUS GOLD										
(Including bonus)										
£100,000+	7.50	–	6.00	–	7.35	–	7.10	–	5.68	–
£50,000+	7.00	–	5.60	–	6.85	–	6.70	–	5.36	–
£25,000+	6.60	–	5.28	–	6.45	–	6.30	–	5.04	–
£10,000+	6.30	–	5.04	–	6.15	–	6.10	–	4.88	–
Monthly Income Option										
(Excluding 1% annual bonus)										
£100,000+	–	6.50	4.85	4.97	–	6.35	–	6.10	4.55	4.66
£50,000+	–	6.00	4.47	4.57	–	5.85	–	5.70	4.25	4.34
£25,000+	–	5.60	4.17	4.25	–	5.45	–	5.30	3.94	4.02
£10,000+	–	5.30	3.94	4.02	–	5.15	–	5.10	3.78	3.86
60 DAY GOLD										
£100,000+	7.20	–	5.76	–	7.05	–	–	–	–	–
£50,000+	6.65	–	5.32	–	6.50	–	–	–	–	–
£25,000+	6.35	–	5.08	–	6.20	–	–	–	–	–
£10,000+	6.10	–	4.88	–	5.95	–	–	–	–	–
£5,000+	5.60	–	4.48	–	5.45	–	–	–	–	–
Monthly Income Option										
£100,000+	6.97	7.20	5.58	5.72	6.83	7.05	–	–	–	–
£50,000+	6.46	6.65	5.17	5.29	6.31	6.50	–	–	–	–
£25,000+	6.17	6.35	4.94	5.05	6.03	6.20	–	–	–	–
£10,000+	5.94	6.10	4.75	4.85	5.79	5.95	–	–	–	–
£5,000+	5.46	5.60	4.37	4.46	5.32	5.45	–	–	–	–
SOLID GOLD										
£50,000+	5.85	–	4.68	–	5.70	–	5.65	–	4.52	–
£25,000+	5.75	–	4.60	–	5.60	–	5.55	–	4.44	–
£10,000+	5.35	–	4.28	–	5.20	–	5.35	–	4.28	–
£5,000+	5.10	–	4.08	–	4.95	–	5.00	–	4.00	–
£500+	4.30	–	3.44	–	4.15	–	4.15	–	3.32	–
Monthly Income Option										
£50,000+	5.70	5.85	4.56	4.66	5.56	5.70	5.51	5.65	4.41	4.50
£25,000+	5.60	5.75	4.48	4.57	5.46	5.60	5.41	5.55	4.33	4.41
£10,000+	5.22	5.35	4.18	4.26	5.08	5.20	5.22	5.35	4.18	4.26
£5,000+	4.98	5.10	3.98	4.05	4.84	4.95	4.89	5.00	3.91	3.98
£500+	4.22	4.30	3.38	3.43	4.07	4.15	4.07	4.15	3.26	3.31

ACCOUNT	UK rates				Non-resident rates†		Non-personal rates			
	GROSS p.a. %	GROSS C.A.R. %	NET p.a. %	NET C.A.R. %	GROSS p.a. %	GROSS C.A.R. %	GROSS p.a. %	GROSS C.A.R. %	NET p.a. %	NET C.A.R. %
LIQUID GOLD										
£25,000+	4.65	–	3.72	–	4.50	–	4.40	–	3.52	–
£10,000+	4.45	–	3.56	–	4.30	–	4.30	–	3.44	–
£5,000+	4.35	–	3.48	–	4.20	–	4.15	–	3.32	–
£2,500+	4.15	–	3.32	–	4.00	–	3.90	–	3.12	–
£500+	4.00	–	3.20	–	3.85	–	3.75	–	3.00	–
£50+	0.50	–	0.40	–	0.50	–	0.50	–	0.40	–
ASSET RESERVE CHEQUE ACCOUNT										
£50,000+	6.15	6.29	4.92	5.01	6.15	6.29	5.55	5.67	4.44	4.51
£25,000+	5.85	5.98	4.68	4.76	5.85	5.98	5.10	5.20	4.08	4.14
£10,000+	5.50	5.61	4.40	4.47	5.50	5.61	4.85	4.94	3.88	3.94
£5,000+	4.80	4.89	3.84	3.90	4.80	4.89	4.55	4.63	3.64	3.69
HALIFAX CURRENT ACCOUNT										
£2,000+	1.00	1.00	0.80	0.80	–	–	–	–	–	–
£50 – £1,999	0.50	0.50	0.40	0.40	–	–	–	–	–	–
Under 18's	5.25	5.38	4.20	4.28	–	–	–	–	–	–
Student	4.00	4.07	3.20	3.25	–	–	–	–	–	–
CARDCASH										
Standard £50+	0.50	0.50	0.40	0.40	–	–	–	–	–	–
Young Persons‡ (Under 18's) £1+	5.25	5.32	4.20	4.24	–	–	–	–	–	–
YOUNG SAVERS‡ £1+	5.25	5.32	4.20	4.24	5.25	5.32	–	–	–	–
MATURED FUNDS ACCOUNT										
£10,000+	4.80	–	3.84	–	4.80	–	4.80	–	3.84	–
£2,000+	4.20	–	3.36	–	4.20	–	4.20	–	3.36	–
Monthly Income										
£10,000+	4.70	–	3.76	–	4.70	–	4.70	–	3.76	–
£2,000+	4.12	–	3.30	–	4.12	–	4.12	–	3.30	–
TREASURERS ACCOUNT										
£2,500+	5.10	–	4.08	–	–	–	5.10	–	4.08	–
£500+	4.55	–	3.64	–	–	–	4.55	–	3.64	–
£1+	0.85	–	0.68	–	–	–	0.85	–	0.68	–
CLOSED ISSUES										
(Not available to new customers)										
TESSA Gold	7.75	–	–	–	7.75	–	–	–	–	–
Including maturity bonus	7.86	–	–	–	7.86	–	–	–	–	–
Halifax TESSA	7.20	–	–	–	7.20	–	–	–	–	–
Including maturity bonus	7.97	–	–	–	7.97	–	–	–	–	–
Special Reserve Bond										
£10,000+	7.05	–	5.64	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Halifax Extra One Year Maturity Bond										
£10,000+	7.50	–	6.00	–	–	–	–	–	–	–

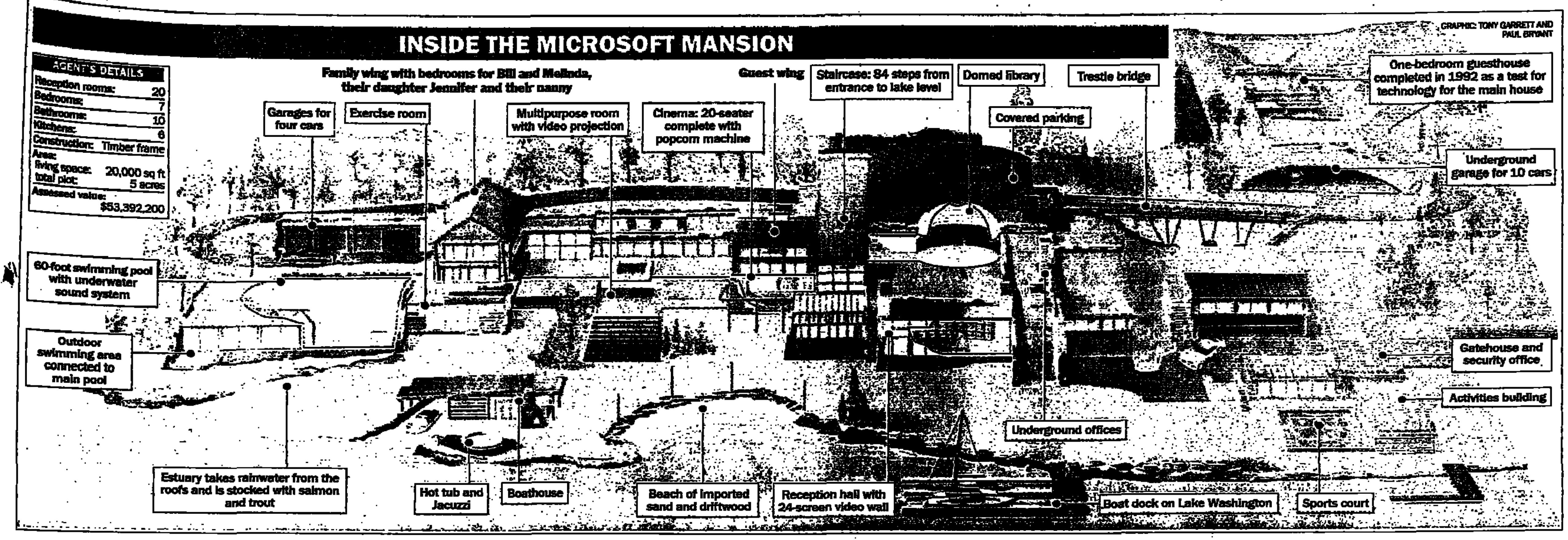
POINTS TO NOTE. Interest will be paid net after the lower rate of income tax (currently 20%) has been deducted unless you have completed a registration form and made a declaration to comply with Inland Revenue regulations. The net rates shown, which are only examples and have been rounded, assume the lower rate of income tax has been taken off. All interest rates quoted may change. ‡Special rates of interest on certain accounts paid to savings and Cardcash customers who appear in our records as being under 21 (under 18 for Cardcash customers). If your savings or Cardcash or Halifax Current Account balance is less than £50 you will not receive any interest unless you appear in our records as being under 21 (under 18 for Cardcash, under 18 or a student for Halifax Current Account). Compounded annual rates (C.A.R.) apply when full interest remains in your account. †The non resident rates of interest are payable to individuals who are not ordinarily resident in the UK and who complete an appropriate declaration form. Bonus Gold, Solid Gold and Liquid Gold non-personal accounts (such as accounts held by clubs, charities and companies) are no longer available to new customers. Full account conditions and details of when interest is paid, and how to qualify for the TESSA Gold, Halifax TESSA, Halifax TESSA 2 and Bonus Gold bonuses, are available from any Halifax branch.

HALIFAX

Halifax plc, Trinity Road, Halifax

20th December 1997

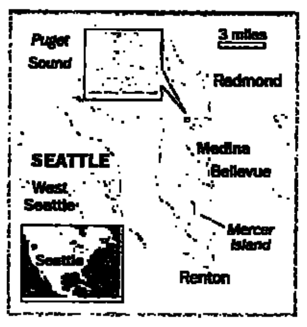
INSIDE THE MICROSOFT MANSION


AGENT'S DETAILS
Reception rooms: 20
Bedrooms: 7
Bathrooms: 10
Kitchens: 6
Construction: Timber frame
Area:
living space: 20,000 sq ft
total plot: 5 acres
Assessed value: $53,392,200
Family wing with bedrooms for Bill and Melinda, their daughter Jennifer and their nanny
Guest wing
Staircase: 84 steps from entrance to lake level
Domed library
Trestle bridge
One-bedroom guesthouse completed in 1992 as a test for technology for the main house
Garages for four cars
Exercise room
Multipurpose room with video projection
Cinema: 20-seater complete with popcorn machine
Covered parking
Underground garage for 10 cars
60-foot swimming pool with underwater sound system
Outdoor swimming area connected to main pool
Gatehouse and security office
Activities building
Underground offices
Estuary takes rainwater from the roofs and is stocked with salmon and trout
Hot tub and Jacuzzi
Boathouse
Beach of imported sand and driftwood
Reception hall with 24-screen video wall
Boat dock on Lake Washington
Sports court

GRAPHIC: TONY GARRETT AND PAUL BRYANT

Lid off the rustic-chic palace of Bill Gates

Giles Whittell has a computer tour of the Microsoft mogul's haven of high tech


Puget Sound
3 miles
Redmond
SEATTLE
West Seattle
Medina
Bellevue
Mercer Island
Renton
Seattle

ANTHONY BOLANTE / REUTERS

The complex, on a five-acre plot on the Lake Washington waterfront, took seven years to build according to the specifications of Bill Gates and wife Melinda

Though still not finished, the lakeside stronghold of the world's richest man is gradually revealing itself as a labyrinthine monument .. to rustic chic.

Bill Gates's $53 million (£32 million) mansion, best-known for its elaborate computer system, also boasts half a million board feet of recycled timber, towering pillars of ancient Douglas fir and roofs planted with grass and local shrubs. Exposed concrete has been distressed to look old, and rainwater is channelled into an artificial estuary stocked with trout and salmon. The Tamerlane of the computer world has built himself a sprawling palace of pavilions linked by tunnels, fibre-optic cables and a theme of restrained Northwestern opulence. Its first three-dimensional depiction, compiled from a CD-Rom published with a recent book by Mr Gates, shows the surprisingly modest family quarters under traditional sloping gables next to a four-car garage at the north end of the complex.

The Microsoft chairman, his wife Melinda and two-year-old daughter have four bedrooms between them and one for a nanny. Below and in front of the family wing is an exercise building complete with a trampoline room in the shape of a 20ft cube. Next door, swimmers in the indoor pool can enjoy underwater music and dive under a glass wall to emerge outside.

Behind the main complex, two large visitors' car parks, one underground, leave a short walk to the guest wing via an 84-step "grand staircase" that follows the steep slope of the lakeshore.

Mr Gates seems loath to welcome overnight guests: this wing has just two bedrooms. It has a 24-seat formal dining room, however. A domed and panelled reading room houses his library, including Leonardo da Vinci's *Codex Leicester*, which he bought for $30.8 million. A large reception hall below the library and closer to Lake Washington has space for 200 sipping cocktails or 150 sitting down for dinner, prepared in one of two restaurant-calibre kitchens. With interiors designed by Thierry Despont, an architect for Los Angeles's new Getty Centre, the huge property could cost $100 million in all, experts say. This is still less than 0.25 per cent of Mr Gates's net worth.

A separate development this week threatened to erode the cyber baron's $40 billion fortune, though not his status as the world's richest person. Heavy trading in Microsoft stock and a $4.31 drop in its share price followed news on Thursday that the US Justice Department had asked a federal judge to find the computer giant in contempt of court and begin levying fines of up to $1 million a day.

The department's request followed an investigation lasting more than a year into Microsoft's licensing practices, especially its strategy of forcing computer manufacturers to include its Internet browser software, known as Microsoft Explorer, in software packages based around Windows 95. Anti-trust investigators insist customers should be able to choose which browser to use. They have accused Microsoft of using its 90 per cent market share in other areas of the software business to mount an unfair challenge to its chief competitor in the browser war, Netscape's Navigator. The arcane but bitter dispute between Microsoft and the federal Government has raised as many questions about the department's anti-trust division as it has about Mr Gates's business practices.

Begun more than a century ago to protect consumers from collusion and price-fixing by greedy oil and railway magnates, the Government's anti-trust efforts have been roundly criticised by some as too slow and bureaucratic to keep up with the computer business.

Others have accused investigators of missing the point. "Microsoft really hasn't done anything wrong," William Baxter, a veteran anti-trust lawyer, told *US News and World Report* recently. In the new high-tech economy, "companies will compete for markets, rather than in markets. We'll have a series of companies leapfrogging one another. The worst thing we can do is weaken the incentives to be the successful frog."

Mr Gates's run-in with the Government is unlikely to affect his company's bottom line. As he admitted recently, fines of $1 million a day would be a trifle for his company: "What the judge says we'll do, we'll do. That's the way it works in this country." In the meantime, experts believe, the company's lawyers have already dragged out the dispute long enough for Microsoft to dethrone Netscape.

Back on the shore of Lake Washington, the Gates family have been more neighbourly. Fellow residents of wealthy Medina, where the median house price is nearly $500,000, have had free car washes during the seven-year construction project, and one old woman who shares the lakefront with the family now has her grass cut gratis by a Microsoft gardener.

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هكذا من الأصل

Cash inquiry at Warhol's charity

JAMES BONE'S NEW YORK

The charitable foundation that controls the estate of pop artist Andy Warhol is getting an unwanted 15 minutes of fame.

The Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, a collection of art world luminaries, has come under the scrutiny of New York State's crusading Attorney-General, Dennis Vacco. The foundation, which spent years in a dispute with its original lawyer, Edward Hayes, over the size of his legal fees, has now fallen under suspicion of squandering the artist's legacy.

Mr Vacco has issued subpoenas to obtain records. The focus of his investigation is the foundation's administrative expenses and the use of office space by Warhol's friend Vincent Fremont, who acts as exclusive agent for its 100,000 Warhol artworks. Also at issue is the valuation of the foundation's holdings.

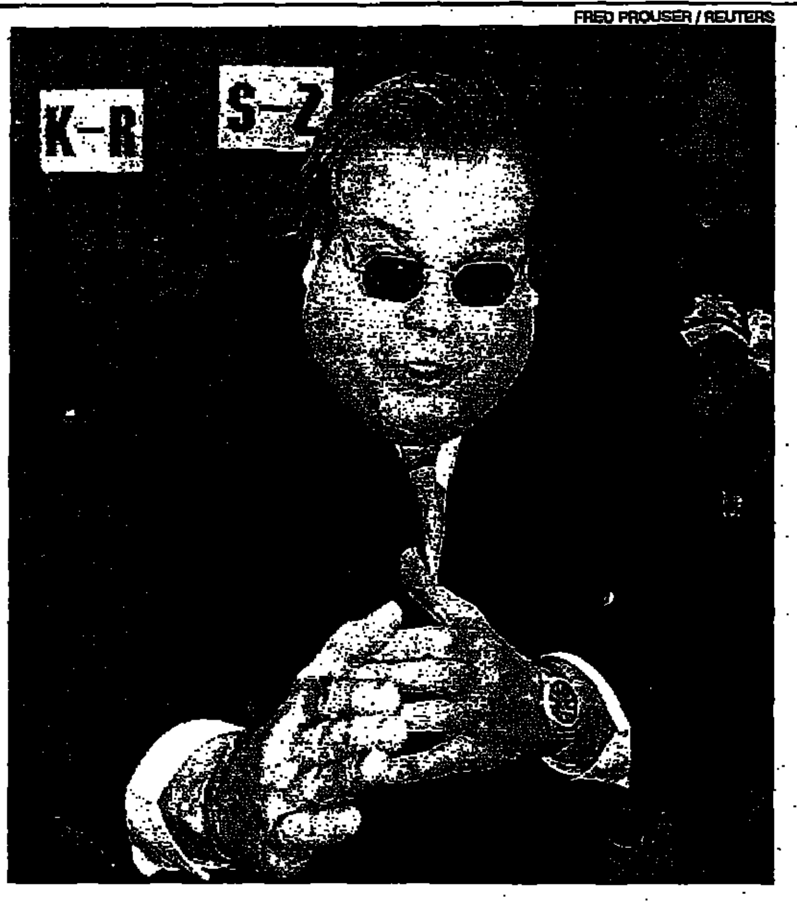
Under New York law, a charity is required to pay out at least 5 per cent of its assets every year. If the foundation's assets are found to be worth about $400 million (£240 million) — the figure set in the Hayes litigation — the charity may have to disburse millions more than it now does.

Mr Vacco's inquiry could conceivably lead to the dismissal of the foundation's board. But Archibald Gillies, its president, defended its high running costs, saying: "We have been performing the role of museum, art gallery and library as well as grant-making foundation."

Warhol: huge legacy

☐ AMERICANS have caught a bad case of "affluenza", a nasty virus whose symptoms are large credit-card bills and incessant shopping. This year, Christmas shoppers are expected to spend a record $800 per family. Activists in Vermont have launched a campaign to persuade consumers to "spend time, not money". They suggest giving certificates promising to cook a meal or to babysit, instead.

FRED PROUSER / REUTERS



Comic star found dead

AMERICA'S jelly-bellied jester, Chris Farley, above, who made his name as a king of slapstick on the television show *Saturday Night Live*, this week followed his heavyweight heroes John Belushi and John Candy to an early grave. The 28st Farley, who made his movie debut in *Wayne's World* and recently starred as the *Beverly Hills Ninja*, was found dead of an apparent heart attack in his pyjamas at home in Chicago. He was 33.

Moral Mayor gives backing to big gamble

AN ISLAND in the shadow of the Statue of Liberty in New York harbour may become the new Monte Carlo.

Local officials are studying a proposal to transform an abandoned Coast Guard station on Governors Island, a short ferry ride from Wall Street, into a world-class gambling den. President Clinton has offered to sell the government-owned land, which has spectacular views of the Manhattan skyline, to New York City for a token one dollar.

Gaming is banned in New York, but casinos operate in neighbouring New Jersey and Connecticut and a court recently ruled that cruise ships could set up the card tables and roulette wheels as soon as they were three miles offshore.

The normally puritanical Mayor, Rudolph Giuliani, says a gambling resort on Governors Island would attract high-rollers from around the world. He has dubbed the project "Monte Carlo II".

The wife of best-selling writer Stephen King, above, is distributing free copies of a graphic autobiographical novel outside high schools in her home state of Maine. *Bastard Out of Carolina*, by Dorothy Allison, was banned by some schools because of its explicit account of coming of age in a family racked by alcoholism and incest. Equipping children to deal with reality may mean "telling them there are bad things in the world". Tabitha King says.

Capeman in bit of a flap

THE combination of a Nobel Prize-winning poet, a leading choreographer, a famous salsa musician and America's most successful playwright is proving a volatile mix. The producers of the new Broadway musical, *Capeman*, have been forced to postpone the opening night for three weeks to pep up the show. A latter-day *West Side Story*, it tells the true tale of Salvador Agron, a cape-wearing gang-member sentenced to death for killing two teenagers in 1959. It was written by Paul Simon with lyrics by Derek Walcott, the 1992 Nobel laureate for literature, and is directed by the dance innovator Mark Morris with the Panamanian singer-cum-politician Rubén Blades in the lead.

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Gary Hart 'bimbo' crusades against porn on Internet

FROM TOM RHODES IN FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA

TEN years after Donna Rice derailed Gary Hart's hopes of becoming President of the United States, the woman once offered million-dollar deals to bare all by *Penthouse* and *Playboy* is now spearheading America's campaign against pornography on the Internet.

While the Democratic candidate from Colorado has long ago faded into obscurity, the peroxide blonde famously pictured on his lap near a yacht called *Monkey Business* has become a born-again Christian, a conservative icon in the fight against smut and an accepted member of the Washington establishment.

Her latest venture is a simple guide for computer-illiterate parents wanting to prevent their children gaining access to hard-core and child pornography, bestiality, torture and even mutilation online. At 39, Donna Rice Hughes — she is married to Jack Hughes, a business executive — has matured beyond recognition.

Rice: conservative icon fighting smut

In many respects, she represented a watershed for the political system in America. Her silence, decision to go underground for seven years and blank refusal to submit to offers that would have made her a millionairess overnight set the tone for subsequent sex scandals in the United States. She has never discussed the details of her alleged affair. *Playboy* offered her a blank cheque to pose with her clothes on while agents touting book and screenplay rights had suggested a starting figure of $800,000 (£485,000). Subconsciously, she admits, her own inability to defend herself may have been the magnet that drew her to the defence of children using the Internet.

"It's sometimes hard to believe what children can access on the Net," said Mrs Rice Hughes as she clicked expertly on her computer to reveal a particularly sordid act on screen. "Right now they can get all the adult stuff and even material that's illegal for adults."

A survey last year by Carnegie-Mellon University of 917,410 images downloaded by consumers in 40 countries found more than 80 per cent were pornographic, while paedophiliac or hebephiliac (adolescent) images accounted for 50 per cent of almost six million downloads.

A recent industry summit in Washington produced some results. Four of the largest Internet service providers, representing 95 per cent of the online community, agreed to a zero-tolerance policy for child pornography. But Mrs Rice Hughes and her cohorts were disappointed that law officials only agreed to enforce aggressively legislation on child pornography and child stalking by sexual perverts in cyberspace.

The police would not endorse a robust stance in upholding federal laws against obscenity. At the heart of the issue is the online industry's wish to prevent the fast-growing Internet from being regulated like television and radio. Revenue from pornographic advertising online ranks third behind computer products and travel. Big companies are therefore touting software that filters out sexually explicit web sites and calling for the empowerment of parents.

For Mrs Rice Hughes, the battle against the industry is likely to continue for many years. "I got caught between the crossfire of press, politics and public opinion. I was a 29-year-old single girl who made a mistake, but I'm a fighter and I think something good has come out of it."

Afro-America dreams of a black Christmas

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

AS THE "white" holiday of Christmas approaches, thousands of American blacks are preparing for their own alternative "African Christmas", called Kwanzaa.

Derided by its critics as pseudo-ethnic humbug, Kwanzaa was invented 30 years ago in the aftermath of the Watts riots by Ronald "Maulana" Karenga, a radical activist who once preached warfare against whites but has mellowed into a professor of Black Studies at the California State University, in Long Beach.

Kwanzaa, a misspelling of the Swahili word *kwanza*, or fruit, was devised to introduce black Americans to the values, customs and traditions of Africa. Mr Karenga scoured the African continent for images, rituals and buzzwords and assembled a compendium of seven "Black principles", many culled from the disastrous "African Socialism" of Julius Nyerere, the former President of Tanzania.

Starting on December 26, and continuing for a week, Kwanzaa celebrants will focus each day on a different principle, each with its name in Swahili. These include *umoja*, or unity; *kujichagulia* (self-determination); *ujima* (collective labour); and *ujamaa* (cooperative economics).

There is also a great deal of feasting. A typical Kwanzaa meal would consist of peanut soup with okra croutons, Wolof chicken and rice, a Nigerian salad, and a Fruits-of-Africa pie.

Yet in spite of Mr Karenga's revolutionary intent, Kwanzaa today is a resolutely middle-class affair.

هكذا من الإمل

Lawyers lead the way to a woman's heart

Palimony is a girl's best friend, reports Giles Whittell in Los Angeles

AS A New York tycoon found to his cost this week, American law and lawyers have a soft spot for the girlfriends of the rich and famous. John Lattanzio's bid to retrieve some of the $3 million (£1.8 million) of gifts he lavished on a Latvian lover left him with a diamond ring worth $289,000 and a new role as the laughing stock of Wall Street. The lover, Ines Misan, kept her flat, most of her trinkets and a shiny new Mercedes.

Ms Misan is the latest in a sultry line of women willing to accept and wear staggeringly costly baubles, but refusing to be treated like them. She owes her triumph partly to her steely temperament — "I get attached to gifts; I'm a beautiful woman," she said — and also to the flamboyant Californian lawyer who 25 years ago invented palimony.

Marvin Mitchelson, whose Beverly Hills office boasted a throne from Rudolph Valentino and an etched glass Birth of Venus, made legal history in 1972 with a lawsuit against Lee Marvin by his ex-lover. As Mr Marvin's "cook, companion and confidante" for six years, Michelle Triola was entitled to half the $3.6 million Marvin estate even though she had never been his wife, Mr Mitchelson argued. His client won a mere $104,000, but the term "palimony" was coined and an era of romantic trepidation dawned. Sex, not marriage, had become the mark beyond which vast fortunes were fair game.

"Some people still go blindly into love like they do in the movies," said Cary Goldstein, a Los Angeles palimony expert, when asked about the Lattanzio case. "Others are more cautious. Under palimony, if someone promises you 'Babe, I'll always take care of you', you don't have the concept of separate property. You're saying 'everything'. You're saying 'forever'."

Dodi Fayed found he might have said too much to Kelly Fisher, the Californian model, earlier this year. Claiming she had shelved her career for him, she retained a feared women's rights attorney in Gloria Allred and sued him for $500,000 on learning of his love for Diana, Princess of Wales. And Sondra Locke won an undisclosed settlement from Clint Eastwood after 13 years of living together and six years of litigation.

An estimated 40,000 lawyers in the US now specialise in divorce and palimony. History shows the key to winning a high-profile palimony case is to hire one of the few specialists willing to drag wealthy celebrities through the mire of a public relations war.

Until the mid-1980s Mr Mitchelson, now 68, was an unrivalled break-up lawyer to the stars, charging millions to separate the likes of Joan Collins, Tony Curtis and Zsa Zsa Gabor from their spouses. The reigning king of celebrity divorce and palimony cases is New York's Raoul Felder, 62. After winning handsome settlements for the former wives of Mel Brooks, Martin Scorsese and Mike Tyson, he was a natural choice for Ms Misan.

Indeed Ms Misan called the deal "very sweet" and is now linked romantically to an art dealer said to be worth billions.

John Elkann with his uncle Umberto Agnelli

Agnelli puts grandson in driving seat

From Richard Owen in Rome

A DECISION by Giovanni Agnelli, the honorary chairman and patriarch of Fiat, to bring his 21-year-old grandson John Elkann into the Fiat boardroom was yesterday greeted as a bold bid to ensure continued "family control" of the giant company.

The move comes only a week after the untimely death from cancer of Giovanni Alberto Agnelli, Signor Agnelli's nephew and "heir apparent", at the age of 33. Signor Agnelli, 76, moved "with remarkable speed" to scotch talk of a succession crisis, *La Repubblica* said.

Not only is Fiat Italy's largest private company, with an empire embracing newspapers and football teams as well as cars, it also exemplifies the Italian tradition of family dynasties. The Agnellis have been compared to the Medicis in the range of their wealth and power, and Signor Agnelli is often described as Italy's "uncrowned King".

Although they have the biggest stake in Fiat, the Agnellis have to share control with several banks and insurance companies, and have had to steer the firm through a major restructuring.

John Elkann — the son of Margherita Agnelli, Gianni Agnelli's daughter, and her first husband Alain Elkann, the writer and journalist — is still a student, and is too young to take over the firm when Cesare Romiti, the present chairman, retires next June at 75. But Signor Agnelli indicated that he saw his grandson as his heir in the long term, and pointed out that he himself had joined the Fiat board at 22 and became vice-president at the age of 25. "He may be young, but so was I when I joined the board in 1943."

Signor Elkann was christened "Jacopo" but prefers to be known as John, a reflection of his American birth and international background. He was born in New York in 1976, and has a brother Lapo, 20, and a sister, Ginevra, 18. He attended a lycée in Paris snd is now in his third and final year of engineering studies at Turin Polytechnic.

Signor Elkann had prepared for a future in Fiat by doing summer work experience stints at the Magneti Marelli factory in Birmingham last year and at the Fiat plant in Poland this year. There is speculation that he may in due course change his first name to Giovanni, the Italian equivalent of John. Both the firm's founder and its present patriarch were named Giovanni, and the late Giovanni Alberto had been dubbed "Giovanni III" by the press before his death last Saturday. It is not clear who will take over as "interim" chairman next year, although the most favoured candidate is Gabriele Galateri di Genola, 50, Fiat's aristocratic managing director and the right-hand man of Umberto Agnelli, 66, Signor Agnelli's brother.

MAURO PILONE / AP

John Elkann, 21, joins the board to ensure continued "family control" of Fiat

NIL DIFFICILE

Father Vallejo, who has been praised for launching a Latin language website on the Internet

Vatican scholar tries to raise Latin from the dead

By Richard Owen

AN ANCIENT Roman returning to the Rome of today might be horrified by the traffic, the mobile phones and the fast food restaurants — but at least he (or she) would be able to communicate, thanks to an up-to-date Latin dictionary.

The dictionary, the result of eight years' work by Vatican scholars, tackles the tricky question of how to translate concepts and inventions unknown (mercifully) to Horace and Ovid. Latin is still the official language of the Vatican state, but was dropped from the Roman Catholic liturgy in the 1960s. It is not much used within the Vatican nowadays except by specialists, who translate papal documents into Latin.

The dictionary's veteran editor, Monsignor Carlo Egger, 83, who has served four popes as chief Latinist, indicated that he had found counterparts to such modern words as aerosol spray (liquor nubilogenus), motorbike (birota automataria), and stripper (sui ipsius nudator). But the arrival of the dictionary in Rome bookshops reveals an even fuller vocabulary of late 20th century phenomena. After arriving at the "aeronavium portus", or airport, a returning Roman could take a taxi, or autocinetum meritorium, to the Colosseum or the Pantheon, which he might be pleased to note are still standing despite pollution. While stuck in a traffic jam or "in obstructione", listening to Roman drivers sounding their horns, or "sonori autocineti indices," he could use a mobile phone, or "telephonium cellulare" to phone ahead and explain why he is late.

On arrival, struck by the fashions of today's Rome, he might like to drop into a department store or "habituum emporium" and kit himself out with a new jacket (tunicula manicata), shirt (subucula), trousers (bracae), socks (pedules) and shoes (calceos), with some new underwear, or subligares. They could then repair to a "taberna Macdonaldiana" for a hamburger. This month Monsignor Egger organised a "Latin Festival" at the Vatican addressed by the Pope, who lamented the decline of spoken Latin and urged its revival. He praised a Spanish Jesuit priest in Rome, Father Felix Sánchez Vallejo of the Gregorian University, for launching a Latin language website on the Internet: www.unigre.urbe.it/vallejo/breviter.htm)

☐ *Lexicon Recentis Latinitatis*, published by Libreria Editrice Vaticana *160,000 lire*

SOFTENER.

How have we cushioned the blow
of paying for a sporty new hatchback?

Russia claims victory over British spies

Yeltsin believes nation was too hard on KGB, writes **Richard Beeston**

THE head of Russia's counter-intelligence service claimed yesterday that Britain's espionage operations in the country had been set back 20 years after the arrest last year of a Russian diplomat working for MI6.

In an interview marking the 80th anniversary of the founding of the notorious Cheka secret police, Nikolai Kovalyov, the director of the Federal Security Service (FSB), boasted that British intelligence had been dealt a severe blow last April with the arrest of Platon Obukhov.

The former Second Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was arrested by FSB officers, who seized high-tech transmitting equipment supplied by British intelligence. He has been jailed, but his defence claims that he should not be tried because he is mentally unbalanced.

His arrest led to the worst spy row between London and Moscow since the end of the Cold War. The Russians asked for a dozen British embassy staff implicated in the case to be removed. In tit-for-tat manoeuvres, four diplomats were subsequently expelled from each embassy. "Successful operational measures carried out with respect to this case have enabled us to set the British Secret Intelligence Service back 20 years," Mr Kovalyov told the daily *Nezavisimaya Gazeta*. "The British were planning to supply all their agents on Russian territory with the kind of equipment used by Platon Obukhov for secret communications with the Moscow SIS residents."

He added that his service had recently apprehended two more Russian agents working for foreign powers, whose indentities would be revealed in the new year.

Mr Kovalyov's upbeat message was echoed by President Yeltsin, who resumed his weekly radio address yesterday, and devoted his message to praising the work of the secret services. The Russian leader, who looked and sounded much better but has been confined by his doctors to his sanatorium outside Moscow until the end of next week to get over a bad cold, said that the country had been too hard in judging the KGB.

"The state security services were a reflection of the state that existed at the time," he said. While sidestepping the KGB-inspired putsch of 1991, which nearly cost Mr Yeltsin his life, the Kremlin leader insisted that there was no threat of a return to the notorious practices of the KGB and its predecessor, the NKVD, responsible for killing millions of people and suppressing dissent against communism.

Many former victims of the Soviet secret police, meanwhile, gathered this week with rights activists, environmentalists and liberal politicians to give a warning that the FSB was still up to some of the KGB's old tricks. "They are a cancerous growth that is eating its way through Russia," said Sergei Grigoryants, the head of the Glasnost Public Association for Victims of State Repression.

MARK THOMAS

PATSY KENSIT, above, the wife of rock singer Liam Gallagher, has reportedly agreed to appear in at least six episodes of *Friends*, the popular American sitcom (Giles Whitell writes). Kensit, who began acting when

Kensit 'on blind date in Friends'

she was eight, will fill a void in the sitcom's storyline as a new girlfriend for Ross, the gormless but charming palaeontologist played by David Schwimmer, according to sources quoted on NBC television. Ms Kensit's character will meet him on a blind date at the opera, insiders from the series' script department said.

War tribunal to drop charges against three Croats

Anto Furundzija in the dock at The Hague hearing yesterday

From Tom Walker
in Sarajevo

WESTERN attempts to bring Bosnian war criminals to justice suffered a setback yesterday, with The Hague tribunal's chief prosecutor, Louise Arbour, recommending that indictments against three Croat suspects be dropped.

At the same time, the gloss was taken from the mainly Dutch operation that lifted two more Croat suspects from central Bosnia on Thursday, as diplomatic sources in Sarajevo revealed the arrest mission had been bungled two days previously. Elite Dutch marine commandos waited to ambush the two suspects as they returned home from their nightly drinking binge, only to be left empty-handed as they took different routes to their houses.

All told, this week's war crimes tribunal scoreboard makes less impressive reading, with two more names taken but the likelihood that four others will be dropped. Along with the three identified by Ms Arbour, another Bosnian Croat indicted by The Hague must be scratched from the list: investigators have learned that Stipo Alilovic died in Amsterdam in 1995.

Last night, Alex Ivanko, the tribunal's spokesman in Sarajevo, insisted that a final judgment on Ms Arbour's recommendation was still pending.

☐ The Hague: Anto Furundzija, 28, a Bosnian Croat seized by Nato troops, pleaded not guilty to charges linked to the "ethnic cleansing" of Muslims before the UN criminal tribunal. *(Reuters)*

Leading article and letters, page 19

WORLD IN BRIEF

Truth commission charges Botha

Cape Town: The Truth and Reconciliation Commission has laid criminal charges against P.W. Botha, the former President, for ignoring a summons to testify at hearings into his role as chairman of the State Security Council under apartheid during the 1980s (*Sam Kiley writes*). This was the first time that anyone has defied an order to appear before the commission. The National Party later condemned the move against Mr Botha. If he is prosecuted and found guilty, he faces two years in jail, a fine of 2,000 rands (£250), or both.

James Earl Ray plea rejected

Memphis: A grand jury panel yesterday refused to open a new investigation into the murder of Martin Luther King Jr. The request was made by a Jack McNeil, former lawyer for James Earl Ray, King's confessed killer. He contended King was killed by someone other than Ray. But the panel said there was not "credible information" to warrant further review. *(AP)*

Jamaica returns Patterson

Miami: The ruling People's National Party in Jamaica, led by Percival Patterson, right, the Prime Minister, has scored its third consecutive general election victory (David Adams writes). Mr Patterson's party has 48 confirmed seats in the 60-member parliament, compared to only nine for the opposition Jamaica Labour Party, headed by Edward Seaga, the former Prime Minister. Mr Seaga held his own seat for the ninth straight time.

Texas siege ends peacefully

THE Texas day-care centre siege ended peacefully after a 30-hour ordeal in which a gunman took 80 children hostage but later released them all unharmed (Giles Whittell writes). James Monroe Lipscomb, 33, was charged with aggravated kidnapping after surrendering in the northern-Dallas suburb of Plano. The last hostages freed were two of his own children.

EU citizens show racism

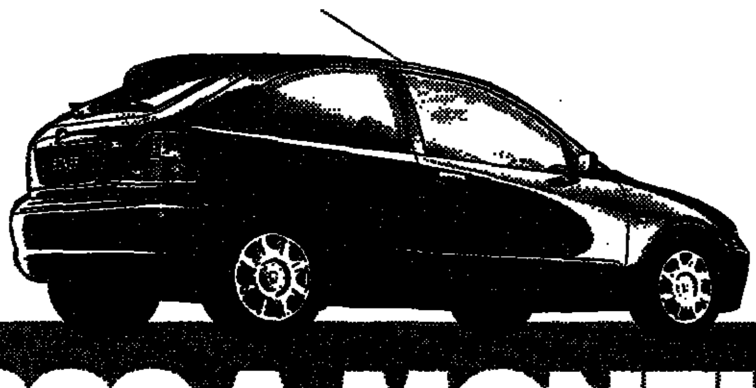
Brussels: *An average 66 per cent of European Union citizens* hold racist views, according to a survey which the Brussels Commission said showed shocking xenophobia (Charles Bremner writes). *Six in 10 Britons hold* racist views, *well below* Belgium's 81 per cent and Denmark's 83 per cent.

UN blue beret firm in the red

Wellington: Slow payment by the United Nations has helped put out of business Hills Headwear, the New Zealand company that supplies the organisation's distinctive blue berets, left, *The Dominion* newspaper reported here. The firm was put into receivership after enduring a year of trading troubles that Harry de Krey, its chief executive, said were made worse by the UN's tardiness in paying, the newspaper claimed. *(AP)*

CIA polices Palestinian jails

Jerusalem: *The Palestinian Authority is to give America's CIA* unprecedented control over its security arrangements with Israel (Ross Dunn writes). This includes the right to veto the release of *suspected Islamic militants from Palestinian jails.*



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Britain on alert as fears grow of new flu pandemic

Experts are divided over whether two deaths and six other cases of an A-strain virus in Hong Kong presage a major world outbreak

By Nigel Hawkes
Science Editor

ONE of the world's leading flu experts flew into Hong Kong yesterday as fears grew over the spread of "chicken flu".

Daniel Lavanchy, of the World Health Organisation, arrived as dozens more people in the former colony were tested for the disease and the number of confirmed cases rose to eight. Hong Kong authorities are meanwhile trying to reassure travellers, fearful that the tourist trade, already hit by the handover to China, will collapse.

Some experts, however, fear that the disease is simmering away, largely undetected, in mainland China. Monitoring activities there are more thinly spread than in Hong Kong, where the only cases so far have been found. Alan Hay, head of the World Health Organisation's flu centre in Mill Hill, North London, has warned that "surveillance in China is a real problem — we have to think of ways of beefing up monitoring there".

Professor John Orchard, of London Hospital Medical College, warns that sometimes flu can lie low, "seeding" itself through the population before bursting out as a pandemic. "So far, it's not exactly leaping along, but it could be smouldering under the surface, which would be very dangerous" he says. "It is very wise that everone is assuming it could spread."

Of the eight cases so far confirmed, two have died. The latest patient is a four-year-old boy, unrelated to any of the other victims. The patients being tested are all ill with some variety of the influenza A virus, but it may not be the chicken virus, A H5N1.

Dr Lavanchy, who heads the WHO's flu programme, flew in to confer with local authorities and experts from the US Centres for Disease Control in Atlanta on whether H5N1 posed a real threat of a pandemic — a world epidemic. The question divides the experts. "My guess is that it will snuff itself out," Professor Oxford said, "but most flu people think the opposite."

Fears of a pandemic are fuelled by the fact that this virus has previously been found only in birds, so that human beings have no antibodies against it. Offsetting that is its slow development so far, which suggests that H5N1 is not a highly efficient virus, and may not spread between humans, a necessary step if it is to create a pandemic.

It was not the first time that humans had been infected with avian flu, Professor Oxford said. Volunteers at the Common Cold Research Unit were experimentally infected with avian flu of the H7 and H4 varieties. But it needed a large dose and the infections were mild. So it is not necessarily the case that H5N1 will sweep all before it.

Influenza A viruses are characterised by differences in two viral proteins, haemagglutinin (H) and neuraminidase (N). The 1918-19 Spanish flu pandemic, the worst this century, was caused by H1N1, which is still in circulation. The other A virus still circulating is H3N2, which caused the 1968-69 Hong Kong flu pandemic.

There are a total of 15 different H sub-types, of which only three have caused major human epidemics. The rest all infect birds, where they cause diseases quite unlike flu. The H5N1 type is particularly nasty, affecting virtually every organ in a bird's body and killing thousands almost overnight. But how serious it is as a human disease remains unknown. It is possible that sporadic infection by avian flu has always occurred, but has not been noticed because it has never caused a pandemic. Heightened surveillance may have brought it to light.

A second and more sinister possibility is that some subtle change has taken place in H5N1 to make it more infectious to humans. Flu viruses of the A type undergo two kinds of change: antigenic drift, which happens all the time and accounts for most of the small changes in the viruses that occur from season to season, and antigenic shift, when the H and N proteins abruptly alter. Pandemics are caused by these abrupt shifts.

This case is different. H5N1 is not the result of an antigenic shift from a known human flu virus, but the direct infection of humans by a known avian virus. Typically, new flu viruses pass through other mammals, usually pigs, before reaching humans — that is why China, where humans, pigs and chickens live in close proximity, is the breeding ground for most new varieties.

H5N1, however, passed directly through the bird-to-human barrier. How it managed to do this is still not known, but subtle changes in the virus — antigenic drift — may have taken place to make it possible. Now that it has infected humans it will continue to change and could pose a future threat.

The next few weeks will be critical. A rapid rise in cases in Hong Kong, followed by the appearance of cases elsewhere, will really set alarm bells ringing. In 1968, when Hong Kong flu caused a pandemic, the first cases were identified in July. The first cases in Britain appeared the following month, and there were some outbreaks in closed communities, such as schools, in the autumn. But the real epidemic struck in December 1969 and January 1970 — a full 18 months after the first Hong Kong cases.

Today, the Health Department believes, spread would be much more rapid. Every day, five jumbo jets arrive in London after direct flights from Hong Kong — around 2,000 people a day, not counting those who arrive by indirect flights. Once the flu was widespread there, it would be only a matter of days or weeks before it got here.

Potentially that could be very serious: Dr Hay has forecast that it will be at least six months before a vaccine against this strain is available.

BOBBY YIP

A chicken vendor in Hong Kong: most new flu strains emerge in China, where birds and humans live close together

A CENTURY STALKED BY A KILLER

The 1918-19 pandemic took 20 million lives worldwide

1918-19: Spanish flu (H1N1) killed 20 million people around the world, 150,000 of them in England and Wales. It infected about 23 per cent of the population. H1N1 is still in circulation, and causes occasional epidemics, but never on the same scale as 1918-19.

1957-58: *Asian flu (H2N2), a milder illness, caused* 30,000 excess deaths in Britain, which includes deaths from diseases such as pneumonia, triggered by flu. One person in every six caught it, though in schools the proportion was 50 per cent and in boarding schools 90 per cent.

1968-69: Hong Kong flu (H3N2) infected 8 per cent of the British population, causing 31,000 excess deaths in 1969-70 and a further 47,000 the following winter. It has continued to kill people as it circulates and evolves.

PREPARING FOR THE WORST

Britain was the first country to produce and publish a plan to deal with flu pandemics. It outlines the actions to be taken at each stage by all responsible organisations. This week Sir Kenneth Calman, the Chief Medical Officer, initiated Phase 1 of the six-part plan.

Phase 0: inter-pandemic period — watchful waiting.

Phase 1: emergence of a new virus outside Britain. Actions include establishing an advisory committee and preparing strains for possible vaccine manufacture.

Phase 2: outbreaks caused by the new virus outside Britain. Intensified monitoring of flu-like illnesses, vaccines ordered from manufacturers.

Phase 3: new virus identified in Britain; pandemic imminent. Health authority and hospital plans to deal with patients activated, non-emergency admissions limited to keep beds clear, advice to public issued.

Phase 4: pandemic flu in Britain. Plans to immunise and treat in full gear, pattern of epidemic followed, bacteria responsible for fatal infections as a result of flu identified and appropriate antibiotics selected, weekly death rates monitored.

Phase 5: end of pandemic. Flu cases return to background levels, advisory committee reports on epidemic and lessons learnt, as do health authorities and trusts.

MPs back call for more breast screening

By Ian Murray

A CAMPAIGN to prevent 2,000 older women a year dying from breast cancer has won the backing of 35 women MPs from all parties. They want invitations to attend screenings to be sent automatically to all women over 65.

At present this service ends once a woman reaches that age, although women over 65 are at the highest risk of developing breast cancer, with more than 47 per cent of new cases and 63 per cent of all deaths in this age group.

Although women over 65 are able to request a screening, the fact that they are not invited to attend means that only 0.3 per cent of them do so. Nearly two thirds of women over 65 told a recent Gallup poll that they thought they were too old for the disease.

"The only reason that the Government can have for not extending the scheme is cost," said Sally Greengross, of Age Concern, which is spearheading the campaign. "We would be appalled if some women's lives are deemed less worthy of resources because they are older."

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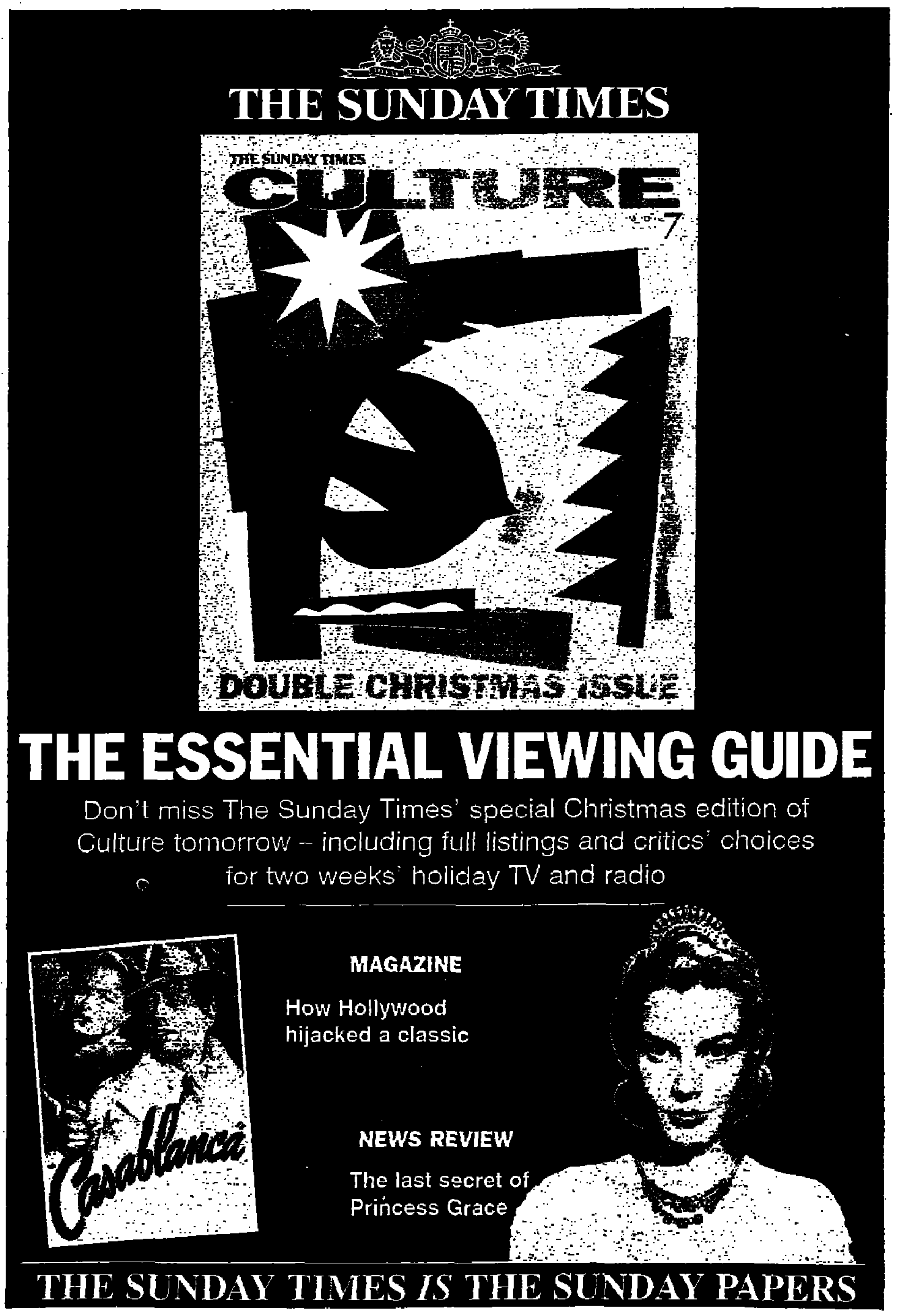
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New technique targets prostate cancer

Nigel Hawkes reports on hopes for an X-ray treatment about to undergo a national trial

A NEW treatment for prostate cancer developed at the Institute of Cancer Research in Sutton, Surrey, is about to go on national trial in 12 centres.

Conformal radiotherapy aims to kill tumours more accurately and with less damage to surrounding tissue by shaping the X-ray to the contours of the cancer. The institute where it was developed is one of two charities chosen for this year's Times Christmas Appeal.

Radiotherapy for prostate cancer uses several beams of X-rays from different directions. The beams pass through the body to the site of the tumour and, where they overlap, illuminate the tumour like spotlights picking out an actor on the stage. The problem, explains Dr David Dearnaley of the institute, is that the area illuminated is rectangular, while tumours are not, and that causes damage to healthy tissue lying around the tumour and limits the dose that can be given.

The new approach is to work out the exact shape of the tumour in three dimensions by CT scanning, then use it to plan the treatment. The X-rays are hard to focus, so the shaping is done by thick metal "jaws" closed around the beam from two sides. In conformal radiotherapy, these jaws are made up of individual fingers of metal which can be adjusted to create a region where the beams intersect which is tailored to the tumour.

One patient who was part of the trial at the Royal Marsden Hospital is Brian Webb, a dentist in Upper Wimpole Street, London, who discovered he had prostate cancer at the end of last year. He arranged to have his course of radiotherapy first thing in the mornings. "I was told I would be very tired, but in fact I was back in the surgery ready to treat patients by 11am every day. I never lost a day's work. Ten days after the course was finished, I went on a walking holiday."

Mr Webb's treatment went well and he was told he did not have to return for a check-up for six months. "I'm OK, I feel good," he says. "I can't recommend it too highly."

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Anti-social drinkers: Neil Morrissey and Martin Clunes in *Men Behaving Badly*

The science of making merry

Guinea-pigs in a new study can look forward to a happy new year

RESEARCHERS have been given a grant to investigate whether it is the alcohol or the sociable company which makes people laugh on a night out (Paul Wilkinson writes).

The ten-month project, starting appropriately at new year, will be carried out by a group of psychologists from Hull University, led by Geoff Lowe, a senior lecturer who specialises in the study of pleasure and enjoyment.

His team has been given £4,370 by Arise (Associates for Research into the Science of Enjoyment), an international group of scientists, sponsored by the food and tobacco industries, dedicated to looking at life from a persepective different to that of what Dr Lowe calls "the health police".

His brief is to study the relationship between drinking, laughter and health. The survey will attempt to determine whether it is the drink which leads to laughter, or if people smile simply because they are drinking in a situation where they naturally feel at ease. A major part of the research will be to discover if people's enjoyment is limited by feelings of guilt about over-indulging.

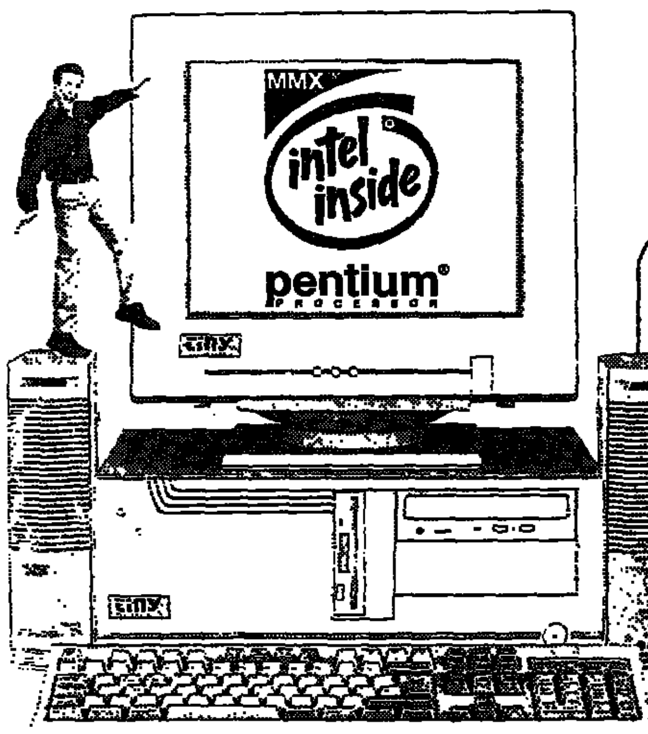
Yesterday Dr Lowe, 53, who lists alcohol and human behaviour among his interests, was already living up to his brief and had left the university for two weeks of Christmas festivities. He said: "Sometimes people consume enjoyable substances, such as 'naughty but nice' food and drink, but feel guilty about it. Such feelings contribute to ill-health. There are now a great many health messages coming to us through the media and this study will help to establish the extent to which pleasurable feelings are mixed up with guilt and the effect that has on health."

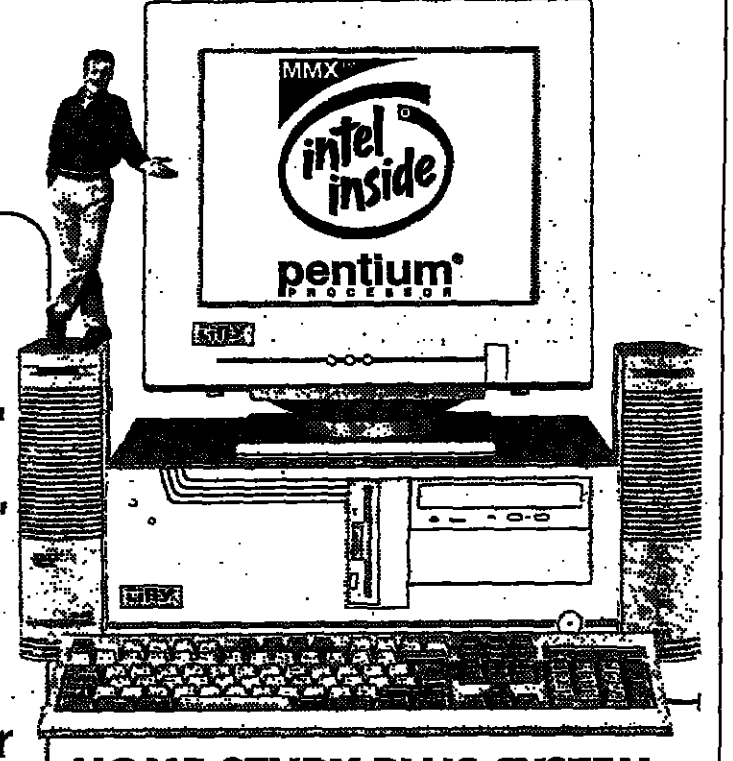
He said many people were concerned that they were not enjoying themselves as much as they used to. "Psychologists look at the psycho-social aspects of behaviour. When people drink they usually do it in a social context. That might help you more than the cardiovascular protective effects of the alcohol itself."

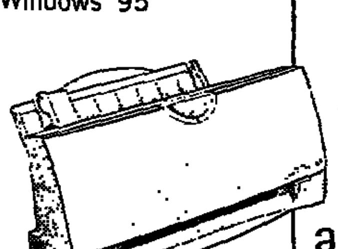
Dr Lowe, who was once commissioned to survey drinking among adolescents across Europe, said his team would study 100 volunteers described as "a cross-section of social drinkers".

One of the tests they will undergo is to watch a comedy video in separate groups. Some will be plied with "controlled" quantities of alcohol while others will get soft drinks. The drinks will be disguised in an effort to ensure the guinea-pigs do not know what is in their glasses. The researchers will then study levels of laughter.

Dr Lowe declined to say what video he planned to use, but said he had used a Steve Martin film during an earlier experiment. "Not everyone laughed," he admitted.







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VALERIE GROVE MEETS: LAUREN BOOTH

Relative success in footsteps of Billy Carter and Terry Major-Ball

In the bar of the Metropolitan Hotel, Lauren Booth is posing — blonde, 5ft 11in, in a red suit, long legs on display — for the London *Evening Standard*'s photographer. She is smoking a cigarette and drinking champagne (at noon) with a cheering absence of New Labour qualms.

She has no wish to trade on her family connections. But, like Carol Thatcher, she is good company, bright, forthcoming — and also (in her words) "a young working single woman who happens to be good-looking in a drab world". Hence the frenzied attention she is getting. Two weeks ago Booth, 28, wrote the *Spectator* diary and scintillated wittily, recording the bizarre changes in her life since May 1, when she watched her brother-in-law transformed from "charming Marmite sandwich-maker" to "our leader ... warmer than Pitt the Younger, more flamboyant than Disraeli, more youthful than Lloyd George ..."

Such observations, and what she refers to as "my reputation as a Valkyrie-like goddess", have landed her with a column on the *Evening Standard*.

So she joins the politicians' siblings who, ever since Jimmy Carter's amusing brother Billy, have had fame thrust upon them. Advice came this week from Terry Major-Ball: "How to survive having a relative in Downing Street." "It was sweet and unmalicious and made me laugh," Booth says. He told her to watch out for ominously friendly journalists and their early-morning phonecalls, and to drink no more than two glasses of wine per night.

He also warned: "If you love your sister and brother-in-law dearly, your trouble is only just beginning." "Yes, quite right," Booth says. "I do love them, so the trouble starts now. But I'm going to avoid politics. I shall write only about the girl who lives in London doing her own stuff."

Her brief is to cover "urban living and being a woman in the 1990s", so she enters an already crowded field of soul-baring single hackettes who despair of men.

Has she lunched with Alan Clark yet? She approached "the cold, steely-eyed Lothario" at a party and told him it would be bad form for either of them to leave without having arranged an innocent lunch. Vaguely amused, he gave her a "cool, brazen appraisal" (an improvement on the "withering look of contempt" which Humphrey the No 10 cat once cast on her) and said he was going to ask anyway. But he hasn't called yet. "I think he's got other things on his mind." She comments astutely, apropos Clark's lawsuit against the *Standard*, that Peter Bradshaw writes all the outrageous things we'd really like Clark to say.

She enters a crowded field of soul-baring single hackettes

She is used to charming and loveable rogues, since her father is Tony Booth, who dedicated his autobiography, *Labour of Love*, to "the women in my life", naming his seven daughters — Cherie, Lyndsey, Jenia, Bronwen, Sarah, Emma and Jo — "with my love and hopes for their forgiveness". Where, among the seven, is Lauren? It turns out that she was originally Sarah. But when she joined Equity there was already an actress called Sarah Booth. Lauren Bacall, Lauren Hutton ... Lauren Booth made a fine stage name and, now, byline.

Having left his actress wife, Gale, when Cherie was 21 months old, Tony Booth stayed longer — more than a decade — with Lauren's mother, Susan Riley, a model in the 1960s. "Dad was there until we were about 11," she says, "and then there was the awful fire, the most traumatic thing that's happened in my life."

This was the night he was locked out of their flat and, very drunk, lit a drum of paraffin. Booth remembers his shouting "Sarah, let me in," and then the horror as he was discovered terribly and near-fatally burnt. For six months, every weekend meant visiting him at Mount Vernon Hospital.

"Whenever I'm driving near there I feel absolutely cold. I'll never forget the smell in the burns unit: you're 11 years old and your father's got tubes everywhere and can't speak or move, and people are screaming in the other wards." The next day a reporter called and told them, "Your dad's dead, how do you feel?" "It was a long trial, and even now he's still recovering. But he's such a charmer, he laughs all the time."

It was about then that she and her sister Emma (a television producer, also 5ft 11in) got to know about their half-sisters. "We'd been a small family unit and it was incredibly exciting suddenly to have older sisters as well."

As for their father's great love, Pat Phoenix, whom he married a week before she died of cancer in 1986: "We loved Pat. She was like a fairy godmother to us. Visits to her cottage were magical. It was a privilege to know her." She watched the reruns of *Till Death Us Do Part*: "Amazing the things you could say then. No political correctness, far more honest."

The teachers at her easy-going primary school, New End in Hampstead, would ask, "Is your lovely dad coming to school today?" ("They all fancied him"). Thence to a girls' comprehensive, Copthall in Mill Hill — a 90-minute bus journey away — "because my mum said, 'You're far too pretty and too bright to go to a mixed school.'"

Why not Camden, the local girls' ex-grammar? "My mum had a fixed idea of what kind of gel she wanted me to be. She didn't want that Camden streetwise angle — so she failed miserably."

Copthall had a uniform and a "scary" headmistress, who would say, "I'm hard on you, Booth, because I like you." "I was cheeky and quirky and I tended to treat the teachers as equals."

After three A levels (Eng lit, theatre studies, French) she took a diploma at the London Academy of Performing Arts. Dad was dead against her becoming an actress. "He said, 'You're intelligent, you're good-looking; you've seen the poverty, the misery, don't do it.' And then he came to see me in my final production at drama school — a very emotional scene — and afterwards he said 'Oh my God, you're good.'"

If you wonder why we've never seen Lauren Booth acting here, it's because she spent a year teaching drama in Vermont, then a year acting and travelling in Australia. (Her Sydney legacy is a tattoo on her shoulder saying "Balmain Tigers".) The past two years she has toured Europe with the Vienna English Theatre. She came back this year to work for Arts for Labour, "nothing to do with family". By September she was compering the fringe meeting on the foxhunting Bill during the Labour conference.

SIMON WALKER

Lauren Booth: her work for Arts for Labour was, she says, "nothing to do with family"

She has always been a secret writer. This year she found herself longing to get things down on paper and now thinks she will stick to journalism: "Once you've started and find you have some sort of ability ... I write as I speak — not wordy, not showy prose."

She is not to be an Imogen or a Tara: the paper wants opinionated observations about London, not based on parties. "Nothing flashy or glitzy, but accessible things people can relate to. There's no way I'd ever be seen in Annabel's or Tramp. I won't be name-dropping: that's not what I'm about."

But shortly after we met she was at Max Hastings's Christmas party, having a great time with Ben Elton ("I made him laugh") and greeting Carla Powell with, "Oh, Peter Mandelson's friend!" "I've been here 33 years," shrieked Lady Powell, "and all anyone mentions is Peter Mandelson."

Booth, single for the past two years, since an intense long-term relationship ended (though she still has joint custody of their Staffordshire bull terrier, Taz), recently enrolled in a California-style "Single Solutions" workshop and wrote engagingly about it. She lives in untrendy Hampstead Garden Suburb, driving an XR3i: "Goes against every class expectation: it's a real East End car, should have thumping speakers blaring out house music, while I play *Evita* or classical."

Every day she fields 20 calls suggesting wacky stunts (will she pose in fur bikinis?). After interviewing Fergie for *OK!*, she is off to Morocco in February for *Hello!* to trek 100 miles for the Teenage Cancer Trust. And she has written about her favourite men for the *Daily Mail*. "I am not ready to pare down my criteria for the perfect man — a rumpled Johnny Depp type with a healthy bank balance," she once wrote; and Jeremy Paxman would be on her list, too. She says what she wants from a relationship is companionship. She has also written: "Being a singleton at Christmas is a lonely prospect."

Isn't there a seasonal reunion of the seven siblings? "That's impossible," she says. "The two oldest sisters are so busy. Jenia and Bronwen are over in the States. Jo lives near Dad, with her mum. But Emma and I are going up to Jo's eighth birthday in Derbyshire on Christmas Eve."

"What happens to a column," she asks me, "if you fall in love and become contented?" I tell her nobody will mind if she writes about that, too.

Troll adds a dash of flavour to panto stew

THEATRE REVIEW

Hansel and Gretel

Theatre Royal

Wittier, neater, altogether better pantos have been seen at Stratford East in recent years. But this year's edition does at least give us the antics of Widdershins, a Salford-born troll. Don't ask how she arrived in the forest, somewhere in a Balkan Neverland, where Obnoxia, the woodcutter's wife, plots to be rid of her stepchildren. Just be grateful that she found employment as a troll-of-all-work for Belladonna, the ambitious witch and focus of audience hissing.

Patrick Prior, author of the book and lyrics, is evidently happier creating villains than giving theatrical life to sweet-natured heroes. The rogues, too, are a feeble couple, though they redeem their pointlessness somewhat when the mummy (bandaged variety) chases them round the tables of the gingerbread house. Again, don't ask why Belladonna keeps a mummy under her stairs, because it's simply an example of Prior's Balkan-stew approach to assembling a storyline.

I say "gingerbread" and yet, though the programme gives recipes for making it, no one on stage mentions it in connection with the cute little cottage in the woods, even when the children, Alexander Newland and Hannah Lawrence (a couple well past puberty) start chewing the windowsill.

Prior pads out his story with a magic ring of power. Heavy enough to grind an average knuckle to dust, it is worn by a passing princess, with whom Hansel falls in love, and is coveted by Belladonna. Carol Ball does what panto witches ought to do: threaten the audience, cackle well and wear fingernails like little sickles. But since Karen Rabinowitz, the director, wants her to carry a cumbersome crystal ball around like a medieval mobile phone, she should have made it glow when peered into. Simple technical tricks delight a young audience.

Jenny Tiramini's sliding sets effectively shift the scenes between different parts of the pine forest. A couple of squirrels do a nice routine on the branches and cuddly animals peer around the roots: spellbinding for the very young. A fearsome tree python (mouth snapping, red eyes glittering) soon follows, along with a disembodied claw. Excellent frightening stuff.

But the one I love is Zita Sattar's *Widdershins*, a creature resembling a silver fox hauled backwards through a briar patch, with bare kneecaps like ostrich eggs, and buttocks and belly to match. There is a frolic to the movements Sattar gives her, a sense of mischief as she goes muttering her way through her duties, and I wish there had been others like her.

JEREMY KINGSTON

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Personal portrait of a public man

There's more to Mbeki than meets the media, says **Magnus Linklater**

It is the fate of those who succeed great men to be judged inadequate to the task. When that great man is Nelson Mandela, disappointment seems almost preordained. How can anyone match those qualities of wisdom and natural warmth that have welded a nation together in the face of impossible odds?

It is perhaps not surprising that Thabo Mbeki, who was elected party leader of the African National Congress this week, has been accorded notices that range from the barely respectful to the niggardly. Shadowy, colourless, secretive, devious. — just a few of the words that have peppered recent profiles.

It is hard to equate them with the Thabo Mbeki I know. I first met when he was a 20-year-old student at Sussex University, one of the first intake, along with my wife. I remember him from parties where he was an elegant dancer, funny, wonderfully good-looking and in great demand from female undergraduates. There was nothing devious about this charming, articulate and intelligent young man; his friendship was open and unquestioning.

But even then it was clear that he was more than a footloose exile. He had been entrusted with a mission. As the son of Govan Mbeki, a leading ANC politician, imprisoned along with Mandela after the Rivonia trial, he had been sent abroad to be educated and to keep the anti-apartheid cause at the front of the world's political agenda.

Later, we learnt more about why he had chosen Britain rather than Moscow, the natural home in those days for the ANC. He had been befriended by Anne Yates, a lecturer at Witwatersrand University, who recognised that Mbeki would have to escape from South Africa if he was to avoid the same fate as his father. Thanks to the Anglican monk Aelred Stubbs and, in Britain, Lord Ravensdale, a place was found for him at Sussex — a suitably progressive home for a future revolutionary. His education was paid for by Tim Beaumont — now Lord Beaumont of Whitley, the Liberal peer. Back in Johannesburg, when Mbeki received the letter of confirmation from Sussex, he was so thrilled that he stuffed it into his sock to take it home, before being reminded that to be caught with it would mean instant arrest.

After university, he went underground in the service of the ANC, and we saw less of him. He spent some years in Moscow and travelled the world — "From Grimsby and Exeter to New York and Ulan Bator" as he recalled when he was awarded an honorary degree by Sussex recently.

He would visit us from time to time, turning up unannounced at our house in Islington, usually late at night and accompanied by a "friend" who was never introduced. We would talk and drink late into the night. Always cool and collected, he gave no indication of the dangers he faced. Yet this must have been a desperately hard period for him — a time when the world had turned its back on South Africa. Mandela himself introduced Mbeki on the day of his inauguration by saying: "This is the man whose youth was stolen."

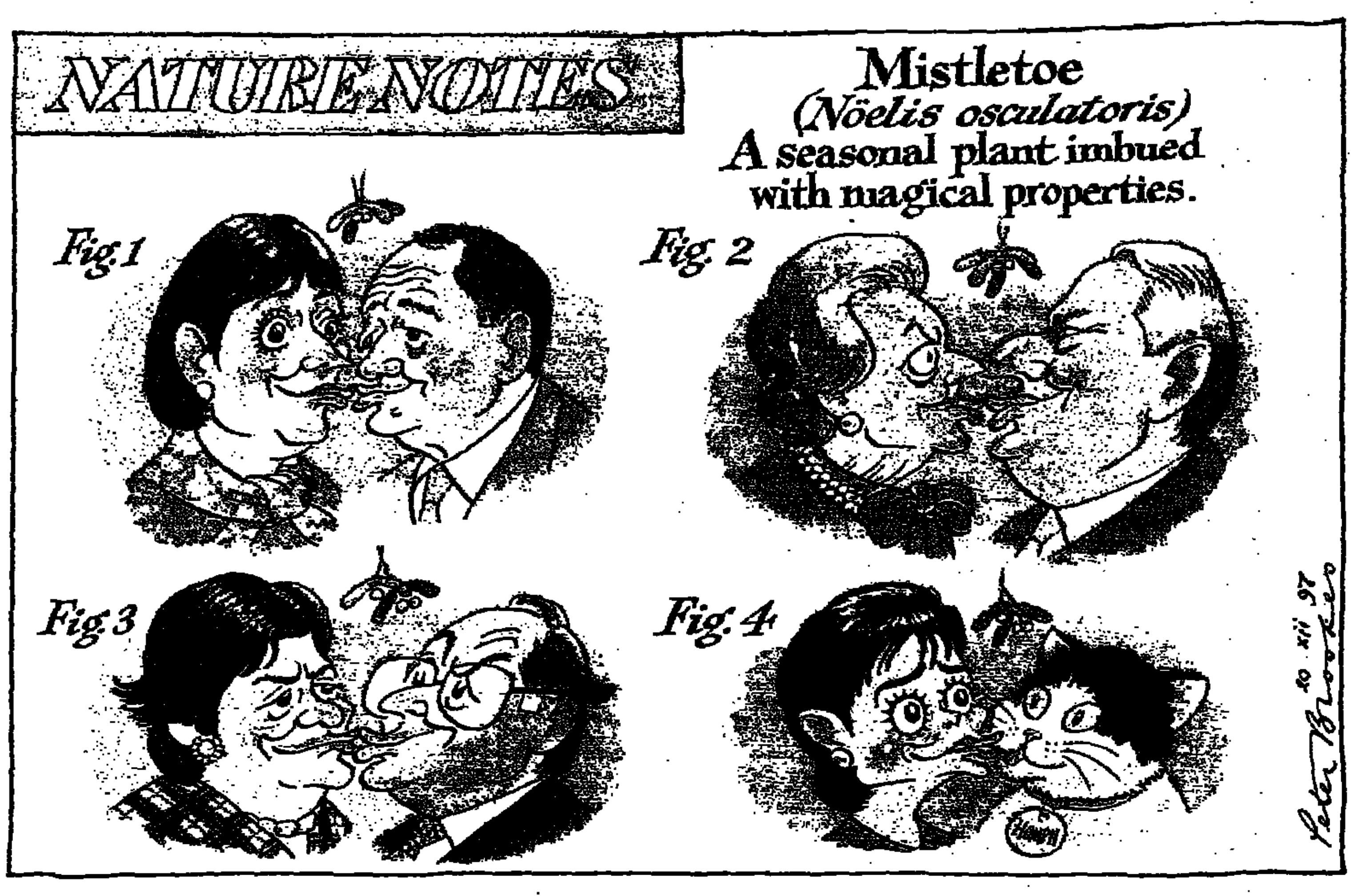
It meant that for nearly 30 years, Mbeki had to suppress his natural feelings, and live a double life. What is remarkable about him is not that he strikes some people as reserved, but that he has survived at all as a human being without affectations. Power seems to have changed him not one bit — and in this he is very like Mandela.

Many years later, just before the elections, we met him in South Africa where he was already being tipped as Deputy President. He met us at Johannesburg airport, again with just one "minder", and with no obvious security in sight. His beard was a bit more grizzled, and his hair was tinged with white, yet he seemed otherwise unchanged. We fell back into easy conversation, talking about the prospects for the election and the political situation in Britain, on which he was remarkably well-informed. We were reminded of his new status only when he remarked casually that he would have to leave early — "I've been keeping the President of Equatorial Guinea waiting for an hour," he said.

A friendship which rests on a mere scattering of meetings over the years cannot reveal the hidden depths of a man who has led such a driven, dedicated political life. Nor can it shed much more than glancing light on his private life. Only recently has it emerged that Mbeki had a son early in his life who disappeared under mysterious circumstances. His wife, Zanele, who trained as a social worker in Britain, keeps out of the public eye. For himself, Mbeki has never shown the remotest interest in press relations.

But behind the gentlemanly reserve, the sharply cut suits and the ever-present pipe, which give Mbeki a British, almost scholarly appearance, one thing is certain: he has remained African through and through. At his wedding, in a stately home in the heart of Surrey, the reception turned into a high-caste tribal ceremony with women dressed in silk, swathed in gold turbans, swaying across the floor of an English drawing room to the rhythms of Xhosa music.

South Africa's new leader thus bridges two worlds, with easy assurance. He may have work to do in order to convince his people that he can fill President Mandela's shoes. But there is no doubting the strengths he brings to the job. As one admirer put it yesterday: "South Africa has struck lucky again."



There's nothing to hide

The Dome is still evolving and to reveal details now would spoil the surprise

Simon Jenkins

"People who would carry on great public schemes must be proof against the most fatiguing delays, the most mortifying disappointments, the most shocking insults and, worst of all, the presumptuous judgment of the ignorant upon their designs."

Edmund Burke's words still hover over those creating the Millennium Exhibition at Greenwich. This week the House of Commons Culture Committee endorsed the dome but criticised its secrecy. As one of those involved in the project, let me try to shed some light.

This time last year there was no dome. There was a site, a plan and a concept. There was a budget, much in need of pruning. There was support from the Tory Government but not from the Labour Opposition. The latter was critical in view of the impending election. Despite a year spent seeking private equity there was none. The only god in sight was the schedule. A company had to be set up in January this year to let the first building contracts, or the dome would not exist by 2000. At moments I thought the project dead.

This Christmas, visitors to Greenwich (and those flying overhead) can see a crown of 12 pylons soaring above the peninsula in a fold in the Thames beyond Canary Wharf. The footings are in place and the cables strung ready for the membrane. Norman Foster's station is built, a sickle roof that brilliantly offsets Richard Rogers's hemisphere. A project with a long-term design life is on time and on budget. I doubt if there is a faster moving construction site of its size anywhere in Europe.

Despite its press coverage, the Kaufman report was supportive. It approved the Millennium Commission's reasoning that led to a national exhibition at Greenwich. It found the dome itself "magnificent in conception and likely to be breathtaking in execution". Allocating the £450 million of lottery grant elsewhere would have been "an opportunity lost". The committee nowhere undermined the robustness of the budget, rebutting the constant claim of critics that it would "cost the taxpayer a billion".

The committee's reservations chiefly concerned the content, a mantra that is now ubiquitous among the dome's opponents. Why the secrecy, they ask, why no sign of the content? Until they see what is inside, they protest that they find the project hard to support enthusiastically, or at all.

Such critics are very British. They "will not kill but will not strive, officiously to keep alive".

The answer to these complaints is simple but frustrating. There is no secrecy about the dome, just incompleteness. That incompleteness is within schedule. An exhibition two years away is not a state secret lying covered in cobwebs in a vault. It is a show evolving. We do not know the BBC's schedule for 2000. We do not know the Queen's Speech for 2000. For that matter, we do not know the outcome of Gerald Kaufman's deliberations before he reaches them.

Those monitoring the spending of money on any creative project might reasonably worry if it is not on time or on budget. Lottery money is not taxpayers' money, but it is the public's money, a distinction the committee considers "without a difference". (That clashes with the original intention for the National Lottery.) But this is to quibble. When a dome the size of two Wembleys or 13 Albert Halls is being built with "the public's money" in the capital, the public is entitled to ask what for.

That answer is in the public domain. It has been discussed both by the dome's defenders and by its critics, not least in *The Times* in June 1996. The exhibition is on the theme of time, expressed through humanity's achievements and ambitions. Working this theme into exhibition format and carrying it out to schools and regional centres is the task of designers working within a framework laid down by the company.

At the core of the dome is a large performance space which will serve as an introduction to the exhibition. Round this central arena are three segments: the human mind and body; achievement in the community, industry and the arts (principally British achievement); and the future of the Earth and the human habitat.

The segments are divided into zones or pavilions, each contracted to a different design team. Eleven are currently at work. Thus for the "body" zone, the designers HP:ICM are constructing a huge model of the human form, its veins and arteries in working order. The "land" design company is creating a "tower of serious play" in which riders alter the hologram exhibits as they pass them before "choosing" a play-style of their own. In the "work" zone, the Park Avenue partnership is building a "valley of the ladders", tracing the career paths of the future. Virtual reality screens take visitors through the future of "the job".

Some of the proposals are already excellent, some still need development. They must be both instructive and fun. Displays will be linked electronically with schools and other centres across the country. Above all, they must be ready on time. Because of the election hiatus, these contracts could not be put out to tender until after the Government's June review. The bids came in by the autumn and are now let. There is nothing secret about this. But until the zones are ready in skeleton form, interest from sponsors cannot be finalised, nor can the frustration of politicians and public be assuaged.

This programme is on schedule, just. The committee naturally wanted to see the pavilions. We all do. But the design teams protest that revealing unfinished drawings and "work in progress" achieves only exasperation and delay. I agree with them. What is at present planned is a "state-of-play" presentation by early spring, to meet the needs of sponsors, the travel industry and the public. But a degree of patience is demanded of the audience of any show. Those managing a creative activity must be fair to the creators or they will not get good work. Pre-emptive criticism demoralises everyone. This show has to be ready at the end of 1999, not before. Part of its appeal will lie in that suspense.

The dome is both about time and about a race against time. The past three years have taught many lessons, some of which seemed more inevitable at the time than in retrospect. A year was lost testing to destruction the then Tory Government's belief that a large exhibition could be privately initiated and run. Six months were lost because of the general election, which could hardly have been worse timed. (A general election also dogged the Festival of Britain.) The history of the dome is an ironic comment on the shortcomings of both privatisation and nationalisation — albeit with nationalisation triumphant. No show of this size and significance was ever going to be left alone by a government.

But it is to be. The dome is the envy of millennium organisers in Germany, France, Italy and America. Nothing anywhere else is comparable. The project is a victory for imagination over the British yen for paradox. We dislike celebration rituals as hyperbolic and ridiculous, yet we glory in costly ceremonial. We regret that we cannot stage grand projects in the French style, yet we niggle at those who attempt them. When asked to take an idea at least partly on faith, the public prefers to bury its head under its arm and say, "Oh, give the cash to hospitals and schools". The welfare state has the best tunes. Sometimes we want relief from them.

A nation with its feet firmly on the ground must occasionally be swept up and given a glimpse of a far horizon. That is what good exhibitions do. From the crowded halls of the British Museum to the magnetic displays of Epcot and Disney, these giant shows have lost none of that power. Scepticism brought both the Great Exhibition of 1851 and the Festival of Britain of 1951 near to disaster before they opened. Yet both became the defining events of their eras. The dome is a different show for a different age. It has suffered critics. Smart comment dare not be seen to praise.

Yet the critical path to construction has not wavered. The first of the three years left before opening has ended on schedule and on budget. Hundreds of Britain's young designers, fiercely motivated, are now working round the clock on what is going to be the experience of their lives. High above the din, the spires of the biggest dome in the world are rising to the sky.

Simon Jenkins is a member of the Millennium Commission

Laugh or the world will jeer

Simon Barnes

on how to grin and bear a joke

I am the first to laugh at a joke against myself but this goes too far. There is not a schoolmaster in creation who has not found these words tumbling from his lips. A total giveaway: and don't his playground-hardened pupils know it? The iron rule of the playground is never to let the bastards know they've touched you, or they'll be at it twice as hard and you will look ten times as big an idiot.

This rule was forgotten this week, if it had ever been learnt, by an unlikely pair of bedfellows: Alan Clark, MP and demon diarist, and Shane Warne, Australian and demon bowler. Clark could not bear being imitated; Warne could not bear being called fat. Playground standards, both, and the wise child always tries — *quite literally — to grin and bear it.* But not everyone learns in the hard *school of the playground: the world is* echoing to the sound of toys being hurled from prams.

It was nice of the English legal system to bring us the Clark panto for Christmas. Clark, of course, is taking legal action against the spoof Clark diary in the *Evening Standard*.

"Would it be fair to say that you are somewhat obsessed with your personal appearance, your physique and sexual attractiveness?" Clark invited such questions by going to court. He may, or may not, have a good legal case, but, by insisting on his credentials as *un homme serieux*, he has effortlessly made himself a fool. His humourlessness has undone him.

It is much the same with Warne. Warne is a great cricketer but he cannot bear to be teased. Photographed alongside his waxwork, an effigy noticeably slimmer than his *current self*, he was asked by a reporter which shape he preferred. The response was pure playground. "That's why I don't answer questions from you blokes. That's it, you've ruined it. Thanks very much." And off Warney stormed.

The famous can surround themselves with toadies, and many do, but no one gets fame on his own terms. Self-mockery is one of the most humanising of traits: it is one that is most conspicuously lacking in sport and politics.

Never let them know they have touched you. A confession: I long to write a letter: "Dear *Private Eye*, I think you have confused pseudo-intellectual with intellectual." But it does not take a PhD in literature and psychology to work out that the letter would appear beneath the headline "A pseud writes" and I would look a bigger idiot than ever.

Politicians and elite athletes are there for the world to mock. They are never taken with the perfect seriousness with which they take themselves. Eric Cantona, the footballer and philosophaster, inspired an industryette of teasing volumes. Tony Blair is portrayed as a cynically self-deluding vicar in *Private Eye*.

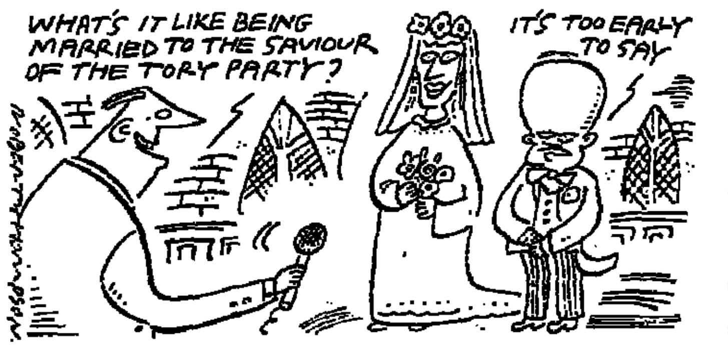
Fame is fair game: the only defence is indifference. And humour, of course. Mick Quinn, footballer turned racehorse trainer, was called Sumo by teasing fans — so he named his horse Sumo Quinn.

Without humour, a person is less than human. Humour is proportion, humour knits up the ravelled sleeve of care, humour is destructive of vanity. Jokes are ever the world's defence against the conspiracy of the vain, the pompous, the humourless. *The humourless cannot make jokes:* instead, they become jokes. Alan and Shane take us *rocking into Christmas* week with a spring in our steps and a devilish *smirk on our faces.*

Deep waters

THE LITERARY estate of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, creator of Sherlock Holmes, has come under legal scrutiny with all the intensity of the detective on the trail of Moriarty. Andrea Reynolds, the former lover of Claus von Bulow who controls much of the author's royalties, has accused her ex-husband of withholding a decade's earnings from the estate. Reynolds gained the estate from her parents who bought it from a bank. She allowed her ex-husband, Sheldon, to handle the rights when they were a couple but now she says he kept £150,000 after they split. He denies this. Both are subject to a legal gag, but she once said: "Every generation takes up with Holmes. The income is up and down but it is regular." When Reynolds last appeared in court, she organised von Bulow's successful appeal against conviction for attempting to murder his heiress wife, Sunny. Jeremy Irons won an Oscar for portraying von Bulow in *Reversal Of Fortune*. Reynolds was played by Christine Baranski. After five years with von Bulow, Reynolds married Lord Plunket's heir, Shaun, who was brought up by the Royal Family following his parents' fatal plane crash. They now run a B&B in New York State.

Screen lovers: Baranski: Irons


WHAT'S IT LIKE BEING MARRIED TO THE SAVIOUR OF THE TORY PARTY?
IT'S TOO EARLY TO SAY

DIARY

JASPER GERARD

● *LABOUR MPs concerned about the gathering confidence of Gordon Brown claim he has a new description of his job: "I am the PM, Tony Blair is the President."*

Follow me

SARAH Macauley, Gordon's friend, demonstrated her familiarity with the Chancellor's residence by offering guests a guided tour at No 11's Christmas party on Thursday. The PR mistress was less amenable to suggestions from a grubby *journalist that she follow Ffion's* footsteps to the altar: "You wish."

More happily, she expressed pride at the speed with which Felix, her cat — expected to move into Downing Street — has adapted to the limelight. He poses in the window of Macauley's South London home, awaiting the next batch of cat-crazed snappers. A reflective Chancellor anticipated a Christmas return to Scotland. So little time has he spent there that when he looked out of his Edinburgh window recently, he was horrified to see a row of houses blocking his view: "I didn't even know they had planning permission. I didn't see them being built and suddenly they were there." I only hope that this might persuade ministers to clamp down on the beastly developers ruining Britain.

OLD TIMES
"Investment in the arts is vital to the future of this country" — Tony Blair, May 1995. This week Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary, announced that next year's Arts Council grant would be £184.6 million — £34 million less in real terms than five years ago.

● *DAVID Mellor becomes grander by the day. After trading in his wife for a viscountess and buying an expensive pad in the shadow of Tower Bridge, he has grumbled to neighbours for leaving their wheels outside his love nest. The parked cars are breaking no rules but Mellor rang the area's private security force and screamed: "If I had wanted to live on a council estate, I would have bought a council house. The place looks like a 1960s car lot." Let's hope nobody mistakes him for a second-hand car dealer.*

Space oddity

SEND Michael Foale, the British-born astronaut, to repair the Mir space station and he will complete the task with alacrity. Invite him to boldly go on Radio 4's *Today* and watch him spin dangerously out of orbit. Foale was swallowed up in the black hole that is Broadcasting House after his taxi deposited him at the wrong end of the building. As Michael failed to dock with the fourth-floor studio and wandered helplessly around the wrong floor, producers rushed through an emergency item. With Foale floating towards the Radio 5 sports desk, he was finally rescued and brought down to earth for his live link-up with a relieved nation.

● *ON THE eve of the shortest day in the year, a Labour MP is demanding to know if the prime ministerial Christmas tree is powered by solar energy. "I sent him a written question asking if he'd looked into the matter," says Llew Smith. "Clinton has solar lights on his tree at the White House, so why shouldn't we have them at Downing Street?" But Smith will not be following his own advice. "I'll just have an artificial tree with tinsel," he says. "There's not enough sun in Wales for solar lighting."*

NEW TIMES
THE Balkans have decided they need an image makeover. Eight countries think the brand name has become steadily more de trop since the Balkan crisis. Bulky Balkan sorts (Bosnians, Albanians, Bulgarians etc) want to be known as "South Europeans".

Guy and dolls: Chris Smith poses with the full Spice rack

PARTY TIMES
MY thanks to Chris Smith for lending me this snap from his picture album, depicting the fun-loving minister with his department's greatest assets at a party on the set of *SpiceWorld: The Movie*. "He is very proud of this," says a cultural source. "He found the Spice Girls charming." Surprisingly, perhaps, there was more bottom at the Foyles luncheon, where heavyweights heard Lord Hurd of Westwell talk about his book *The Search for Peace*. Among them were John Major and that other colossus of the FO, Lord Carrington. William Waldegrave also showed ("I'm just glad to have an audience"). Lord C praised Hurd's handling of "hangers, floggers, pornographers and Lord Longford" before arriving at the FO "where many think it treasonable to speak to foreigners". Hurd was amused to see Gerald Kaufman, once his shadow. Hurd thought Kaufman "enjoys the role of stage villain and relishes the hisses that accompany his every appearance". Kaufman replied that he hadn't been among so many Tories since he voted for the Government's benefit cuts.

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CRYING CHICKEN

Celebrate human power over disease, not its weakness

The great flu pandemic of 1918-19 sprang upon a world unprepared for a fresh disaster. While eyes were fixed on the final weeks of fighting on the Western Front, a virus that would claim even more lives was beginning its terrible career. In a strange parallel with the slaughter in the trenches, those who died in the pandemic tended to be healthy young adults, not the elderly and infirm who are flu's customary victims. Before the age of antibiotics and flu vaccines, there was often not much that doctors could do.

Today no new flu virus can hope to make its entrance quietly. The trumpets heralding a new pandemic tend to be sounded before the virus responsible has even got its boots on. So sensitive are we to the threat, so sophisticated in detecting it, and so trigger-happy in spreading the news that the danger of crying wolf becomes unavoidable. Flu pandemics occur at unpredictable intervals, but are signalled by abrupt alterations in the virus responsible, which changes its coat so that it can duck under the defences erected by the body's immune system. In light of this knowledge, it is not surprising that the chicken flu virus which has so far infected eight people in Hong Kong, killing two of them, has triggered a minor panic.

It is too soon to say whether anxiety is justified. The evidence so far, however, does not suggest that a pandemic is imminent. For that, an efficient virus which spreads readily between people is needed. The experience in Hong Kong is that only those who have been in close contact with chickens seem to be at risk. True, several members of the same family have been infected: but they all lived with an aged grandmother and could have caught the disease from chickens she acquired, rather than from one another. The slow rise in the number of cases since the first was identified in May is also reassuring, although less is known about what may be going on in mainland China.

It is, nevertheless, entirely proper to take the threat seriously. If chicken flu does become a pandemic, it could sweep across the world in months, in which case it is unlikely that a vaccine could be developed in time. But it is also possible that it could take a year or more to reach its peak, as did the last major flu epidemic to emerge from Hong Kong in 1968. In that case, speed now could ensure that a vaccine is ready in time to blunt the impact. Only one caution needs to be entered: transporting the virus around the world to develop the vaccine is itself not without risks. It may not be lethal to human beings, but it certainly is to birds, and Britain's farmers already have more than enough problems without flocks of chickens and turkeys dropping dead overnight.

The flurry over chicken flu raises issues of its own. Like the "flesh-eating bug" and Ebola virus, it has so far lacked much of its alleged substance. Flueu worries are not entirely a media creation, although the media certainly amplify them. They reflect, rather, an increasing mood of public anxiety at a time when most real risks are declining. Life expectancy is increasing, the risks of death from most kinds of accident are falling, and the threat of nuclear war no longer hangs over us. Yet few people would admit to worrying less, and most worry more, than they used to.

The phenomenon has been well explored by the sociologist Fr[illegible] Furedi in his recent book *The Culture of Fear.* The reasons for the change are many: constant nannying advice from well-meaning public bodies certainly has something to do with it. But with modern antibiotics, the opportunity to make effective vaccines, and the ability to detect a new outbreak of flu on the basis of a single case, humans should celebrate their power, not fear their weakness. By comparison, the victims of the 1918-19 pandemic really did have something to worry about.

DUTCH COURAGE

A message to the war criminals of Bosnia

The two indicted Croatian war criminals arrested by Dutch troops in Bosnia on Thursday are accused of horrific crimes. Vlatko Kupreskic, wounded when he opened fire on the soldiers sent to seize him, is said to have organised one of the worst massacres of the Bosnian war, killing Muslim women and children and setting alight the village of Ahmici in 1993. Anto Furundzija commanded a Bosnian Croat paramilitary unit and is accused of allowing a prisoner to be raped while he conducted an interrogation. They are now in the custody of the *International Criminal Tribunal* in The Hague, where slow attempts are under way to confront the most notorious killers with their crimes.

The Dutch raid sends out two important messages — to the sullen communities in Bosnia still harbouring known war criminals, and to The Netherlands, one of the contributing powers to the Nato-led Stabilisation Force (Sfor). The raid will remind Bosnian, and especially Bosnian Serb, communities that although the Nato effort to apprehend named suspects has so far been poor, the allies have no intention of simply forgetting about past atrocities. The raid came only hours before President Clinton announced an open-ended extension of the American troop presence in Bosnia. Washington has long insisted that a rapid round-up of the leading suspects is a precondition for normalisation. That pressure will continue. British special forces made clear in Prijedor last July that Nato would use snatch squads if there was no voluntary surrender. The Hague tribunal has publicly indicted 78 suspects; the 50 at large cannot count on continuing Nato inaction.

The message that the troops sent back to their own country was equally trenchant. The arresting squad has redeemed Dutch military honour. An army that has been traumatised by Srebrenica, the worst civilian massacre in Europe since the Second World War, can at last take pride in a difficult and dangerous operation. The accusations of cowardice, levelled at the Dutch contingent that failed to protect the Muslims of Srebrenica, have severely undermined military morale and national self-respect. For the past two years the Dutch have been mired in debate over what they could or should have done. The battalion in the besieged city has been portrayed as babysitters, not fighters; the army, caricatured by hairnets and hashish, has been ridiculed for its lack of discipline; and a nation that took pride in its wartime help to the Jews has been shamed by today's meaning of Dutch courage.

Joris Voorhoeve, the Dutch Defence Minister, said the arrest of the two Croats were just the pick-me-up needed by the Dutch military, and he praised his soldiers' professionalism. This action alone, however, will not still the continuing debate on Srebrenica or re-establish Dutch military credibility overnight. But it underlines a new determination to take risks in the fight for justice that stands in sorry contrast to the accusations levelled by the prosecutor at The Hague court against France.

Louise Arbour accused French troops of deliberately avoiding the arrest of war crimes suspects in the French sector and said that Paris was set on a course of non-cooperation. Her accusations have been furiously disputed. France says it has lost 70 men with a further 700 wounded in Bosnia. But the French have yet to enforce the Dayton undertakings with the vigour of British and Dutch Sfor troops.

THE SIBLING FACTOR

A celebrity relation brings the spotlight but few perks

While Ffion Jenkins's sister, Manon, accompanied her down the aisle yesterday, Cherie Booth's half-sister, Lauren, prepared to relaunch herself as a newspaper columnist. As Valerie Grove reports in her interview with the Prime Minister's sister-in-law on page 17, "She has no wish to trade on her family connections". But being a close relative of the most powerful person in the land leaves her little choice.

So far Ms Booth has been admirably discreet, revealing only her brother-in-law's skill at making Marmite sandwiches. But it is a fair guess that, had she merely been an obscure actress with no links to No 10, her telephone would not be ringing 20 to 30 times a day with offers from television, newspapers and magazines.

As Terry Major-Ball, the former Prime Minister's brother, points out, having a relative in Downing Street requires strong self-discipline. Any indiscretion will be leapt upon. His advice to Lauren is never to drink more than two glasses of wine. Tony Blair will surely be relieved if she takes it. Seen from the other end of the telescope, siblings can be an embarrassing liability, as both Jimmy Carter and Bill Clinton discovered.

Once upon a time, rulers could simply give their brothers jobs. Jack Kennedy made his brother Attorney-General. Napoleon dished out kingships to most of his family: Louis became King of Holland; Jerome, King of Westphalia, and Joseph, King of Naples. Sisters, meanwhile, could be married off, preferably to other monarchs. Family ties did not, however, ensure that war would be prevented, as Europe's monarchs discovered in 1914. The brothers-in-law could also be a nuisance. Napoleon's, Joachim Murat, was made King of Naples when Joseph shifted to Spain; Murat then deserted Napoleon in the vain hope that Austria and Britain would recognise him. He had his comeuppance: attempting to make himself King of all Italy, he was captured and shot.

In historical terms, Mr Major-Ball should think himself relatively lucky: had he been the brother of a sultan, he would almost certainly have been the victim of rather more lethal sibling rivalry. But modern siblings are still the victims of harsher media scrutiny than their 19th-century predecessors. And, while their brothers or sisters may still have immense patronage, they cannot any more put their siblings on a throne — or even a health authority.

When James Callaghan sent his son-in-law, Peter Jay, to be British Ambassador in Washington, there was uproar. So Lauren Booth will probably have to content herself with a brief few years of glory as a scribe. But while Lauren enjoys the limelight, it is her half-sister Lyndsey who will do the greatest service to the couple in Downing Street. As a babysitter and solver of domestic crises, she is apparently hard to beat.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

'New imperialism' of Bosnia mission

From Mr George Kenney

Sir, I thought Simon Jenkins's article on Bosnia ("Ulster of the Balkans", December 17) quite excellent. While I completely agree with the points he makes about international efforts to bring democracy to Bosnia — something it has never had, not from the Austrian Empire up through Tito's semi-Stalinist system — there is another aspect to international efforts which he barely touches upon and which most critics ignore completely.

Leaders of all the factions in Bosnia have strong economic incentives not to solve their problems, but to maintain the international presence. We're talking about a lot of money. Most Americans, for example, have no idea that in fiscal year 1998 the US will spend over $3.7 billion in Bosnia (according to recent testimony to Congress by the Government Accounting Office).

Compare that to total US aid to sub-Saharan Africa in 1997, a paltry $1.4 billion, which in per capita terms works out to about $1,200 a head in Bosnia and $3 a head in Africa.

Or look at the $3.7 billion compared to the total discretionary spending in the US foreign policy budget, about $11-12 billion. The US is spending roughly one third as much in Bosnia as for all foreign policy operations (though these are different accounts).

All this is a huge windfall for the Bosnians. And it seems from my vantage point in Washington that nobody at the State Department is thinking in terms of the actual implementation problems — nobody seems to realize that we are feeding the Bosnians' habit for subsidies.

I agree completely with Jenkins about the new imperialism. While I would have fewer reservations about it if we were honest with ourselves and called it what it is, I find it quite grotesque that Western governments seem to adopt totalitarian techniques, both with the Bosnians and our own Western publics.

But if we impose an Orwellian world abroad, how long before it comes back to haunt us at home as well? Philosophically this is a most troubling situation.

Cordially yours,
GEORGE KENNEY
(State Department Desk Officer for Yugoslavia, January-August 1992),
4620 36th Street, NW,
Washington, DC 20008.
gkenney@idsonline.com
December 17.

From the Executive Director of Children's Aid Direct

Sir, Simon Jenkins refers to "mission creep" in his article about British troops in Bosnia. This is set in the context of Nato planning for a reduced force, 20,000 troops, with a mission review to be undertaken every six months.

Of course the remit has changed; it always does. Protecting aid convoys became policing the ceasefire and that then becomes assisting the gradual rehabilitation of civil order.

Likewise aid-agency work moves on from immediate emergency relief to rehabilitation and then, where relevant, development. Both the military protection force and the aid agency role change as does the nature of the need. Both then face decisions about when to pull out.

Field visits indicate for us that the effects of the war are still active. The civil population is still fragile. Welfare systems are still limited. This is the reason why a "slim-down" force must remain.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID H. W. GRUBB,
Executive Director,
Children's Aid Direct,
12 Portman Road, Reading RG30 1EA.
December 17.

War and the media

From Mr Miles Hudson

Sir, Perhaps I may be permitted a wry smile when I and my fellow author, John Stanier, are described by Martin Bell (Book review on *War and the Media*, December 11) as retired men who "seem to yearn for a world from which the media are excluded".

Our age we cannot deny; but when we conclude that the media "should continue to probe, to expose abuses, to widen horizons, to criticise when necessary and to give support when this is justified (p321)", it seems that our other findings as to the accuracy of media reporting are well-founded.

Yours faithfully,
MILES HUDSON,
The Priors Farm,
Mattingley, Hook,
Nr Basingstoke RG27 8JU.
December 13.

Commons votes

From Mr Alan Pavelin

Sir, Mr Richard Bristow (letter, December 12) suggests secret ballots in the House of Commons.

The whole point of open voting is that MPs are accountable to us, their electors. If, on any issue, the way they vote were kept secret, how could we possibly assess whether to vote for them next time?

Yours faithfully,
ALAN PAVELIN,
172 Leesons Hill,
Chislehurst BR7 6QL.
December 12.

Britain closer to a classless society?

From Mrs Maureen Bridge

Sir, The new eight occupational definitions proposed in the survey of classes commissioned by the Office for National Statistics (report, December 13) demonstrates that John Major's dream of Britain becoming a classless society has come much closer to being a reality.

What Major surely meant was equality of opportunity across the classes. It has not quite happened yet; to become a barrister still requires money as well as ability, and those living in areas of poor housing, poor schools and who are short of money are still more likely to be unemployed or doing elementary work.

Nevertheless teachers and nurses, company directors, doctors and City whiz-kids now come from a wide spectrum of backgrounds. A public schoolboy can become a car mechanic, a child born in a corner grocer's shop can become Prime Minister and a retired bank manager can be a part-time gardener without raising an eyebrow.

That, surely, is what John Major meant.

Yours sincerely,
MAUREEN BRIDGE,
4 Watts Road,
Tavistock PL19 8LF.
December 13.

From Professor P. E. Secker, Deputy Secretary of the Institution of Electrical Engineers

Sir, I was concerned to read in your account of the report commissioned for the Office for National Statistics that "technical and managerial occupations *such as engineers*" (my italics) have been classified as "associate professionals" and included in the second of the eight proposed denominations. I understand this to be an oversimplified interpretation of the proposals.

The correct position for professionally qualified engineers — as opposed to the technicians involved in, for instance, the servicing of domestic equipment — is, of course, in Class I, along with doctors, lawyers and scientists.

Engineering is a highly creative, innovative and professional calling, involving superior fiscal and functional responsibilities. Recent surveys show that engineers command salaries equal to or greater than those of most other professionals and have similar or even longer training periods.

Yours faithfully,
PHILIP SECKER,
Deputy Secretary,
Institution of Electrical Engineers,
Savoy Place, WC2R 0BL.
December 15.

From Mr Jonathan Owen

Sir, You report the proposed reclassification of people into eight social classes.

As the owner of a country hotel, with a degree, who often undertakes many of the menial tasks associated with the day-to-day running of the business, I fit into every class group except class 8 (unemployed/disabled).

As I am also a local Conservative branch chairman, may I now rejoice in John Major's dream, having achieved my own classlessness in society?

Regards,
JONATHAN OWEN,
Wold House, Nafferton,
East Yorkshire YO25 0LD.
woldhouse@compuserve.com
December 16.

Role of EU spokesmen

From the Chief Press Secretary to the Prime Minister

Sir, I am well aware of the difference in the role of the spokesman of an EU member state and the role played by spokesmen of the member state that holds the EU presidency (report and leading article, December 19). At last week's Luxembourg summit, British government spokesmen played the former role, while a robust debate was going on about Euro X inside the council chamber. In the next six months we will play the latter role, mindful of the different needs of different nations' media, all of which require the polite and professional service they will get.

In Luxembourg there was no rudeness on my part, though I did engage in vigorous debate with journalists — almost all British — who did not believe Euro X was a fight worth having. I have no knowledge of the alleged incident between a Swedish journalist and an unnamed "British briefer", quoted in your leading article. Nor do I recall any exchange with a Spanish journalist that resulted in me "laughing" at the fact that his colleagues could not speak English as Charles Bremner alleges in his report.

I was not even aware the *International Herald Tribune* had quoted a remark about British journalists, let alone complained about it. Nor, as Mr Bremner writes, did I "claim victory" at the briefing to which he refers. I reported, under the intense pressure there is for regular briefing, that there had been progress, that an agreement was close and that it met the concerns the Prime Minister had put. That agreement duly emerged, strengthened in our view by the negotiations still going on at that time.

Criticise all you will. During the British presidency we intend to show a good face of Britain to the rest of Europe and a good face of Europe to Britain. We do not intend to waste our opportunity.

Yours sincerely,
ALASTAIR CAMPBELL,
Chief Press Secretary to the
Prime Minister,
10 Downing Street, SW1A 2AA.
December 19.

The next Archbishop

From the General Secretary of the Modern Churchpeople's Union

Sir, You report that the identity of the next Archbishop of Canterbury is already all but known, barring the actual announcement, in the Trollopian personage of the present Bishop of London (article, "Set for Lambeth walk", Weekend, December 13).

I suggest that your correspondent is a little premature in his assumptions. I would call to mind in this case the pertinent old Roman saying: "He who enters the conclave a Pope exits a cardinal."

Further, serious consideration must be given to the future role and status of the Archbishop of Canterbury, not simply as Primate of All England, with its eccentricities, but as occupant of the most senior see in the worldwide Anglican Communion.

The next incumbent may be chosen from outside these islands and, if that is the case, engaging Victorian characteristics will not be relevant.

Yours sincerely,
NICHOLAS HENDERSON,
General Secretary,
Modern Churchpeople's Union,
25 Birch Grove, W3 9SP.
December 15.

Messiah manners

From Mr Anthony Fry

Sir, As concert halls and churches throughout the land present their seasonal offering of Handel's *Messiah*, I believe that organisers have a responsibility to make it clear in the programme whether or not the performers would wish the audience to follow George II's example and stand for the Hallelujah chorus.

As centuries of custom and tradition in this country are being casually swept aside, we are left at most performances of this great oratorio with a shambles at the climax to part 2: some people stand, others sit and then are embarrassed into standing (particularly if they are overseas visitors), whilst the rest mumble "sit down" much in the manner of the stands at Twickenham as a try is about to be scored. This not only detracts from the music but must greatly distract the performers.

If the programme clearly stated the performers' preference, then the vast majority of concertgoers, who are probably agnostic on the subject, could happily follow the lead given without the embarrassment of uncertainty.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY FRY,
27 Warrington Crescent, W9 1ED.

Exchange control rules

From Sir Michael Edwardes

Sir, Anyone skipping through December 18's front-page report by Dominic Kennedy ("Robinson was accused of breaching exchange control rules") would be forgiven for thinking that I had made a major contribution to the content. I would point out that my response to the journalist (in writing) was as follows:

> I refer to the statement you have read to me, made by Mr Arthur Large, who was Company Secretary of BL when I was Chairman.
>
> *I confirm that I visited the Deputy Governor of the Bank of England in the company of the Company Secretary. The meeting was arranged at my request, some months after Exchange Control was abolished.*
>
> Matters discussed were confidential then, and as far as I'm concerned remain so.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL EDWARDES,
15 Woodfall Street,
Chelsea SW3 4DJ.
December 18.

Late call

From Mr Peter Wolfes

Sir, "We appreciate your custom and hope all has gone well since you took out your mortgage on 1st January 1901." So reads a letter from the Bank of Scotland, entreating me to consider them, should I move house again.

Are we beginning to see the computer equivalent of the first cuckoo in spring?

Yours faithfully,
PETER WOLFES,
The Beehive,
36 Railway Side, Barnes, SW13 0PN.
December 17.

Weekend Money letters, page 50

With the postal delays that often occur at this time of year, it is useful, where possible, for letters to be faxed to 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: *letters@the-times.co.uk*. Please give contact telephone numbers.

Santa bearded in the line of duty

From Mrs Hilary Corfan

Sir, In a week when we have seen news footage of tiny children scavenging on Bosnian rubbish tips to survive I find it hard to sympathise with parents who complain of their children's lost innocence on discovering the truth about Santa (reports, December 15 and 18).

The magic of Santa Claus is important to tiny infants but the parents of older (and one would hope wiser) children should show them that the true magic of Christmas is created by loving parents who are able to provide warmth, comfort and security.

Perhaps these angry parents should count their blessings and think of the sad children, both here and abroad, who lose their childhood innocence in far more harrowing circumstances.

Yours,
HILARY CORFAN,
39 Broadacres, Luton LU2 7YF.
corfans_home@compuserve.com
December 18.

From Mrs Susan Kelly

Sir, Your front-page headline, "Father Christmas's reputation hangs by a whisker", raises the question of why people continue to tell their children these pointless lies.

I remember vividly as a small child being unable to understand why my parents, supposedly the kindest and most loving people in my life, didn't give me a Christmas present, when this complete stranger from Lapland in a red coat did.

Time to pension Santa off.

Yours faithfully,
SUSAN KELLY,
227 Popes Lane, W5 4NH.
December 15.

From Mr Nigel R. MacNicol

Sir, Libby Purves, as always a fount of common sense, makes the point that terrified infants should not be forced on to Santa's knee for the gratification of parents ("Let Santa be child's play", December 16), but should there not be a maximum age for visits to Father Christmas?

Junior school teachers know that by the age of seven most children are longing for the chance to pull Santa's beard and demonstrate to gullible parents that the old man is a fraud. Should Santa be exposed to this peril?

Yours faithfully,
NIGEL MacNICOL,
9 Church Lane, Greetham,
Oakham LE15 7NF.
December 16.

Stocking fillers

From Mr Alasdair Maclean

Sir, Some years ago, when I left home, my mother gave me a list of what she believed to be the contents of a traditional Christmas stocking, together with a brief explanation as to why each item should be included.

It went as follows:

Socks, pants, hanky, toothbrush: the emergency kit.
Pencil, notebook: to use later to record who sent what.
Book/toy, food: to keep the child quiet for another few minutes.
Chocolate money: reminder of the gold.
Shiny money: St Nick's first gift.
Smelly: the frankincense.
Spicy: the myrrh.
Candle/torch: the light of the world.
Round thing, ball: the world.
Soft toy: the animals and lambs.
Tangerine: gold, round and food.
Nuts: the hard life of the Christ child.
Mouse: traditional, but why?

Over the years I have found many people who agreed that the stocking ought to contain such a variety of things, without necessarily sharing the reasons, but no one has ever been able to supply an explanation for the mouse.

Yours faithfully,
ALASDAIR MACLEAN,
82 Stayton Road, Sutton SM1 2PU.
maclean@dial.pipex.com
December 18.

Heavenly gift

From Mr Charles Ottaway

Sir, Browsing through a well-known firm's Christmas brochure recently, I was startled to come across the following: "Christmas angels playing cards in a tin."

Imagine one's joy on opening that present on Christmas morning.

Yours truly,
CHARLES OTTAWAY,
18 Tintagel Close, Luton LU3 1PF.
December 18.

Punter's plea

From Mr Geoffrey Williams

Sir, Following the upheaval in stock exchanges over recent weeks, I would be most grateful if you would rejig *The Times 2* and place the arts and legal pages at the front. This will bring the City and racing pages next to each other, making the information governing my investment decisions a seamless whole.

Yours faithfully,
GEOFFREY WILLIAMS,
10 Malden Road, Watford WD1 3EW.
December 18.

COURT CIRCULAR

SANDRINGHAM, NORFOLK
December 19: The Queen arrived at Grantham Railway Station this morning and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Leicestershire (Mr Timothy Brooks).

Her Majesty, Colonel-in-Chief, The Queen's Royal Lancers, drove to Belvoir Castle and was received by the Duke and Duchess of Rutland, the Colonel of the Regiment (Lieutenant General Sir Richard Swinburn) and Lieutenant Colonel Rudi Wertheim (Commanding Officer).

The Queen was received with a Royal Salute and subsequently visited the Regimental Museum, before attending a Reception with serving and retired soldiers and their families.

Afterwards Her Majesty honoured the Colonel of The Queen's Royal Lancers with her presence at a Lunch given by the Duke of Rutland to mark the Fiftieth Anniversary of her Colonelcy-in-Chief.

The Queen was represented by Princess Alexandra, the Hon Lady Ogilvy at the Funeral of the Hon Lady Rowley (Extra Lady in Waiting to Princess Alexandra, the Hon Lady Ogilvy) which was held in St Mary's Church, Stoke By Nayland, Suffolk, this morning.

The Prince of Wales was represented by the Lord Tollemache.

ST JAMES' PALACE
December 19: The Prince of Wales, Patron, today visited the Bristol Cancer Help Centre, Grove House, Cornwallis Grove, Clifton, Bristol.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
The Emperor and Empress of Japan will pay a state visit to Britain from Tuesday, May 26 to Friday, May 29, 1998. They will stay at Buckingham Palace.

Emperor Hirohito and the Empress paid a State Visit to the United Kingdom in October 1971. The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh paid a State Visit to Japan in May 1975.

Today's royal engagement

The Duchess of Kent, President, Macmillan Cancer Relief, will attend the Eton College Carol Concert, Eton, at 5.55.

Glovers' Company

The following have been installed officers of the Glovers' Company for the ensuing year:

Master, Mr Manny Silverman; Renter Warden, Mr Malcolm Penney; First Under Warden, Mrs Margaret Linton; Second Under Warden, Mr James Clarke; Third Under Warden, Mr Alan Howarth.

Dinner

Royal Society of St George
The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, accompanied by the Sheriffs and their ladies, attended a Christmas dinner of the City of London branch of the Royal Society of St George held last night at the Mansion House. Mr George Todorovitch, chairman, presided. The Lord Mayor, Mr Anthony Scrivener, QC, and the Rev Basil Watson also spoke. Among others present were:

The Ambassador of Tunisia, the Recorder of London and Lady Verney, Lady Scott-Moncrieff, M and Mme Edouard Kouame, Mr Alderman Gavyn Arthur, Mr Alderman and Mrs Richard Agutter, the Sword Bearer, Mrs Todorovitch, the Masters of the Needlemakers' Company and the Pattenmakers' Company, the President of the United Wards Club and the President of the City Livery Club and Mrs Stallworthy.

Birthdays

TODAY:
Mr Bill Abbott, former Governor, Pentonville prison, 56; Miss Jenny Agutter, actress, 45; Mr Michael Beaumont, Seigneur of Sark, 70; Lord Brabazon of Tara, 52; Mr Simon Channing, former chairman, London Philharmonic, 37; Sir George Coldstream, QC, 90; Mr Malcolm Cooper, marksman, 50; Mr Charles Denton, television and film producer, 60; Mr D.F. Gardner, chairman, Brixton Estate, 54.

The Earl of Harrowby, 75; Mrs Ros Hepplewhite, chief executive and Registrar, General Dental Council, 45; Lord Howe of Aberavon, CH, QC, 71; Mr Justice Lightman, 58; Baroness Thomas of Walliswood, 62; Miss Rachel Trickett, former Principal, St Hugh's College, Oxford, 74; Mr John Whitney, former director-general, IBA, 67; Mr John Wilkins, Editor, *The Tablet*, 61.

TOMORROW:
Mr F.G. Berkeley, former Chief Taxing Master of the Supreme Court, 78; Mr B.E.S. Collins, former chairman, Nabisco Group, 74; Miss Chris Evert, tennis player, 43; Miss Jane Fonda, actress, 60; the Earl of Haddington, 56; Sir James Hill, former MP, 71; Mr Walter Hogbin, former chairman, Taylor Woodrow International, 60; Mr Peter Johnson, Headmaster, Wrekin College, 50; Sir Frederick Lawton, former Lord Justice of Appeal, 86; Mr Geoff Lewis, racehorse trainer, 62; Mr W.M.M. Milligan, former Principal, Wolsey Hall, Oxford, 90; Sir John Nabarro, consultant physician, 82; Mr Steve Perryman, former footballer, 46; Mr Anthony Powell, CH, author, 92; Sir John Quinton, former non-executive chairman, George Wimpey, 68; Flight Lieutenant W. Reid, VC, agricultural consultant, 76; Brigadier V.M. Rooke, former director, Army Nursing Services, 73; Mr Walter Spanghero, former rugby player, 54; Mr Greville Starkey, former jockey, 58; Mr Michael Tilson Thomas, conductor, 53; Mr Peter Tinniswood, author, 61; Sir Cyril Townsend, former MP, 60; Dr Kurt Waldheim, former President of Austria, 79; Mr Carl Wilson, singer, 51; Professor Robert Worcester, chairman, MORI, 64.

ALAN WELLER

Laura Powell and Toby Simmonds of Barons Court, West London, who recently announced their engagement

Weekend anniversaries

TODAY
BIRTHS: John Wilson Croker, politician and writer, Galway, 1780; Sir Robert Menzies, Prime Minister of Australia 1939-41 and 1949-66, Jeparit, Victoria, 1894; George, Duke of Kent, Sandringham House, Norfolk, 1902.

DEATHS: Ambroise Paré, surgeon, Paris, 1590; Erich von Ludendorff, German First World War general, Munich, 1937; James Hilton, novelist, Long Beach, California, 1954; John Steinbeck, novelist, Nobel laureate 1962, New York, 1968; Admiral Luis Carrero Blanco, Prime Minister of Spain 1973, assassinated, Madrid, 1973; Bobby Darin, singer, songwriter and actor, Hollywood, 1973; Artur Rubinstein, pianist, Geneva, 1982.

The first General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, 1560.

Louis Napoleon Bonaparte was proclaimed President of France, 1848.

TOMORROW
BIRTHS: Jean Racine, dramatist, La Ferté-Milon, 1639; Robert Moffat, missionary, Ormiston, East Lothian, 1795; Sir Joseph Whitworth, Bt, mechanical engineer, Stockport, 1803; Benjamin Disraeli, 1st Earl of Beaconsfield, Prime Minister 1868 and 1874-80, London, 1804; Archibald Campbell Tait, Archbishop of Canterbury 1869-82, Edinburgh, 1811; Joseph Stalin, Soviet leader, Gori, Georgia, 1879; Dame Rebecca West, novelist and critic, London, 1892.

DEATHS: Giovanni Boccaccio, writer, Certaldo, Italy, 1375; Catherine of Braganza, Queen consort of Charles II, Lisbon, 1705; James Parkinson, physician, London, 1924; F. Scott Fitzgerald, novelist, Hollywood, 1940; George Patton, American general of the Second World War, Heidelberg, Germany, 1945; Gladys Ripley, contralto, Chichester, 1955; Lewis Terman, psychologist, Palo Alto, California, 1956; Eric Coates, composer, London, 1957; Sir John (Jack) Hobbs, cricketer, Hove, 1963.

The Pilgrim Fathers landed at Plymouth, Massachusetts, 1620.

Robert Liston used an anaesthetic (ether) for the first time in a British operation, University College Hospital, London, 1846.

A Pan American jumbo jet blew up and crashed on the Scottish border town of Lockerbie killing 270 people, 1988.

Church news

Appointments

The Rev John Ayling, Team Rector, Boscastle w Davidstow (Truro): to be also Rural Dean of Stratton (same diocese).

The Rev Simon Baker, Vicar, Shinfield St Mary (Oxford): to be Lay Ministry Adviser and Warden of Readers (Winchester).

The Rev Anne Ballard, Precentor and Chaplain, Christ Church Cathedral (Oxford): to be Priest-in-Charge, Ivinghoe St Mary the Virgin w Pitstone and Slapton (same diocese).

The Rev Hugh Beaven, Vicar, Thorpe Bay St Augustine (Chelmsford): to be Priest-in-Charge, Bradwell-on-Sea St Thomas w St Lawrence, and also Chaplain, St Peter's Chapel on the Wall, and Industrial Chaplain, Dengie Peninsula (same diocese).

The Rev Andrew Couch, Vicar, St Ives (Truro): to be also Priest-in-Charge, Halsetown St John in the Fields (same diocese).

The Rev David Hiscock, Team Vicar, Swan (Oxford): to be Team Rector, Swan (same diocese).

Forthcoming marriages

Mr C.R.G. Clarke and Miss O.L.N. Stevens
The engagement is announced between Christopher, son of Mr and Mrs Hugh Clarke, of Ballykeel Beg, County Antrim, and Olivia, younger daughter of the Reverend Richard and Mrs Stevens, of Stockbury, Kent.

Mr J.H. Higgs and Miss A.D. Metcalfe
The engagement is announced between John Harnden Higgs, of Effingham Junction, Surrey, and Angela Denise Metcalfe, of Guildford, Surrey.

Mr K.M. Mead and Mrs C.M. Lancashire
The engagement is announced between Kenneth, younger son of the Rev and Mrs C.H. Mead, of Bournemouth, Dorset, and Catherine, daughter of Mrs M.L. Norris, MBE, of Barnes, London.

Mr R.D. Parry and Miss C.P.W. Hockey
The engagement is announced between Ross, younger son of Mr and Mrs T. Parry, of Newington, Kent, and Claire, eldest daughter of Dr and Mrs J. Hockey, of Royston, Hertfordshire.

Mr D.R. Wilding and Miss A.Y. McAuley
The engagement is announced between Darren, only son of Mr and Mrs Peter Wilding, of Lytham St Anne's, Lancashire, and Amber, daughter of Mr and Mrs George McAuley, of Wrea Green, Lancashire.

Marriages

The Younger of Letterfourie and Miss S.I.G. Banerji
The marriage took place on Saturday, December 13, 1997, at St Etheldreda's Church, London, EC1, of Alexander Gordon of Letterfourie, yr, eldest son of Mr and Mrs George Gordon of Letterfourie, of Presholme, Buckie, Banffshire, to Miss Sophia Banerji, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Kalidas Banerji, of Plassey House, Plassey, West Bengal, India, London and Monaco. Abbot Timothy Wright, OSB, officiated, assisted by Father Kit Cunningham.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Miss Emma Gordon, Sasha Winslow, Emily Blackburn, Rosalind Comyn and Antonio Grifoni. Mr James Mullan was best man.

A reception was held at the Great Hall, Lincoln's Inn followed by a dance at the Duke of York's Barracks. The honeymoon is being spent in Kerala and a further reception will be held in Calcutta.

Mr T. Hunt and Mrs L. Kornblum
The marriage took place on Friday, December 19, 1997, at Guildford Register Office, between Mr Tim Hunt and Mrs Lindi Kornblum.

Mr M.E. Leaver and Miss A.G. Morgan
The marriage took place on December 19, 1997, at The Orangery, Holland Park, London, between Mr Marcus Leaver, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Peter Leaver, of St John's Wood, London, and Miss Anna Morgan, daughter of Mr and Mrs Patrick Morgan, of Wimbledon, London.

Latest wills

Leo Wills, of Edgbaston, Birmingham, left estate valued at £2,233,087 net.
He left £25,000 to the Birmingham Jewish Welfare Board, and to the Birmingham Hebrew Congregation; £5,000 each to Barnardos, RNIB, Imperial Cancer Research Fund, British Heart Foundation and Multiple Sclerosis Society.

John Dutton, of Headley, Bordon, Hampshire, left estate valued at £1,893,306 net.
He left shares in his residuary estate to the Macmillan Service, RSPCA, Guide Dogs for the Blind and Riding for the Disabled.

Barbara Hedwig Habermehl Eaton, of Cottingley Wood, Bingley, West Yorkshire, left estate valued at £1,565,217 net.

Doris Eyland Farrington, of Lichfield, Staffordshire, left estate valued at £1,516,490 net.
She left £5,000 to be divided equally between members of staff at The Old Vicarage, Ropers Lane, Otterton, Budleigh Salterton, who have been employed for four years, with the exception of those staff already left £1,000 each; £2,000 each to St Matthews Church, Walsall, Save the Children Fund, RNIB, Royal Association in Aid of the Deaf and Dumb, Commonwealth Society for the Blind, John Groom's Crippleage, CMS, SPG, British Talking Book Service for the Blind, and Walsall and District Society for the Blind.

George Hopper Fletcher, of Hagworthingham, Spilsby, Lincolnshire, left estate valued at £1,874,810 net.
He left £1,000 each to Age Concern, Salvation Army, British Red Cross, Hagworthingham Church, the Chartered Accountants' Benevolent Association and the National Children's Home; £750 to the Methodist Church.

Doris Grazebrook, of Bramdean, Alresford, Hampshire, left estate valued at £1,824,056 net.

Jan Kazimierz Nagajewski, of London W5, left estate valued at £1,311,817 net.

£16,500 FOR JACKSON'S THRILLER GLOVE

By Sarah Jane Checkland
Saleroom Correspondent

A SINGLE white rhinestone glove worn by Michael Jackson in the video for his top-selling album *Thriller* sold for £16,500 at Christie's South Kensington yesterday. The Hard Rock Café which bought the glove need not regret the loss of a matching pair: Mr Jackson only had one.

"Wearing two gloves seemed so ordinary but a single glove was different and definitely a look," he said in his autobiography *Moonwalk*, adding that "wearing one glove was cool".

A complete stage outfit worn by Prince and fashioned in black crepe, with a pair of matching high-heeled ankle boots and ruched trousers, doubled its estimate at £12,000. This was bought by the Hard Rock's rival, the Planet Hollywood restaurant off Piccadilly in London.

A pair of ears from the wardrobe of Mr Spock, worn in the Star Trek series, fared less well at £880.

ON THIS DAY

December 20, 1991

It was a mixed, but successful, day at the auction houses with sales ranging from a glove belonging to Michael Jackson to an ancient grandfather clock found in a Yorkshire cowshed

Meanwhile at Sotheby's in London, a Georgian mahogany grandfather clock, discovered in the cowshed of a farm near Huddersfield, sold for £11,000 yesterday, way above its estimate of £4,000-5,000.

It was in what the saleroom described as a "distressed condition". The movement was black and rusty but complete. The condition attracted buyers because it was still original.

The farmer had been astonished by the estimate and was said to be overwhelmed by the final price. Sotheby's was asked for an opinion on the clock which had been in the cowshed with other old junk for at least 50 years.

The farmer told a Sotheby's representative that he did not think the 7ft 5¼in tall clock was valuable but the expert identified it as being the work of Benjamin Gray and Justin Vulliamy, and made around 1750.

The sale totalled £395,318 with 29.84 per cent bought in. The top lot was a rare gold and tortoise shell quarter repeating calendar clockwatch by Thomas Mudge, one of the most respected and versatile makers of the 18th century which sold for £22,000.

☐ Six years on from 1991 Michael Jackson is as popular a world star as he was then, as the picture of him singing at a packed San Siro stadium in Milan this summer makes clear. He has survived, despite rumours and accusations of possible child abuse, marrying and swiftly divorcing Elvis Presley's daughter, Lisa Marie Presley, and marrying again and producing a child. Mr Spock, however, along with Captain Kirk and the old trekkies, has been retired from the latest *Star Trek* series.

Michael Jackson in Milan earlier this year

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With difficulty we guess even at things on earth, and laboriously find out what lies within our reach; but who has ever traced out what is in heaven? Wisdom of Solomon 9 : 16

BIRTHS

BENSTEAD - On Sunday December 14th at The American Hospital in Dubai, to Keri (née Dixon) and Nigel, a beautiful son, Liam Angus Beresford, a brother for Caitlin.

BRIGGS - On 11th December 1997, in Paris, to Mary (née Archer) and Nicholas, a son, Oliver Thomas.

CAYLEY - On December 12th at The Portland Hospital, to Andrea and Andrew, a son, Alexander Michael Granville.

CUNNINGHAM - On December 10th at The Portland Hospital, to Mechtelien (née Van Alkemade) and Mark, a son, Max Alexander.

EVANS - On December 15th at The Portland Hospital, to Deborah (née Logan) and Mark, a son, Benjamin, a brother to Emily.

GLEASON - On December 14th at The Portland Hospital, to Heather and Tom, a son, Ryan James. The best christmas present ever!

GOLD - On December 12th at The Portland Hospital, to Angela and Nigel, a son, Daniel Max, a brother for Jonathan.

KYFFIN - On December 13th at The Portland Hospital, to Nicky (née Eames) and David, a son, Harry Thomas Preston.

PALTRIDGE - On 17th December, to Mary (née Galpin) and James, a daughter, Amelia Safina.

PATEL - On December 17th at The Portland Hospital, to Nitesh and Bela, a daughter, Neina.

SCRANCHER - On December 2nd at The Portland Hospital, to Eva (née Ferran) and Mark, a precious daughter, Rubi.

STOYLE - On December 12th at The Portland Hospital, to Midori and Daniel, a beautiful daughter, Katharine Tayami.

WARNER - Vincent and Marie-Louise are pleased to announce the birth of their son, Henry Robert James on Saturday 13th December 1997 at The Matilda Hospital, Hong Kong.

BIRTHS

WINSTANLEY - On December 13th at St Georges, Nice, to Sonia and Patrick, a son, Tristan Hugo Trevor.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

BURFORD:CROKER - Arthur and Iris on the occasion of your Golden Wedding, with love and best wishes from all your family and friends.

ELFORD:HILTON - At St Leonard's, Colchester on 20th December 1947, Sqn Ldr Clifford (Barry) Elford to Ursula (Sue) Hilton. Now at Juglans, Longparish, Hants.

DEATHS

ALLEN - Frank Alfred Dunbar, retired pharmacist, peacefully at Whipps Cross Hospital on Thursday, 18th December aged 86 years, much loved husband of Crokie and beloved father, grandfather and friend. Funeral for family and close friends but memorial service in early 1998 to be announced shortly. Flowers and all enquiries to W.G. Miller, 95 Essex Road, London N1. Telephone 0171 226 3886.

DARTMOUTH - Gerald Humphrey Legge, 9th Earl of Dartmouth, died on Sunday 14th December 1997. Private funeral. A Memorial Service will be held at The Guard's Chapel, Wellington Barracks, London SW1 - details to be announced.

DAVIS - Keith unexpectedly after an operation. Dearly loved husband and stepfather to Nacha and Michael, an irrepressible soldier and engineer. Funeral St Paul's Church, Four Elms, noon 22nd December.

HARRIS - On December 19th, peacefully in her sleep at Bunbury. Vanda, much loved daughter of Cynthia and Chub Paterson and devoted mother of Nicholas and Robert Bolton. Enquiries A.W. Burrows & Son, Funeral Directors, tel: (01270) 524243/524404.

DEATHS

HATTON - Graham Mackenzie on December 18th aged 58 years after a spirited fight against cancer. Beloved husband of Ann, devoted father of Stephen, Lucy and Christopher and his daughter-in-law Julia and a most loving grandfather to William and Giles. Private cremation but a memorial service will be announced in the New Year. Donations if desired to Princess Alice Hospice, Esher, Surrey.

HOWARD - On 18th December 1997 in Sussex, Ralph aged 77 years, after a long illness. Will be greatly missed by his loving wife Margaret and all his family. Funeral Service at Surrey and Sussex Crematorium on Monday 22nd December at 10.15 am. Family flowers only but donations if desired for the Stroke Association may be sent to Frank Davey and Co., 31 High Street, Hurstpierpoint, West Sussex BN6 5TT, tel: (01273) 832179.

LERESCHE - On 18th December at St John's Hospice, Lancaster, in comfort and with dignity, (Elizabeth) Joan Leresche aged 88 years, daughter of the late Peter and Margaret Leresche, sister of the late Denis and a loved aunt, cousin and friend. Funeral Service will take place at All Hallows Church, Kendal on Tuesday, 23rd December at 1.30 pm followed by interment at Parkside Road Cemetery. Family flowers only. Donations in lieu to the British Red Cross c/o Hayes & Parkinson Ltd., Captain French Lane, Kendal, LA9 4HS.

LOW - Alick died suddenly aged 85 on December 17th 1997. Much loved husband of Bonnie, father of David and Ann, and dearly loved grandfather. Private funeral arrangements.

LUXMOORE - Edmund, aged 83 years of Staindrop, died peacefully in a nursing home on December 17th. Beloved husband for 51 years of Diana, father of Michael, Elizabeth and Richard and grandfather of five. Private cremation at Darlington Crematorium on Tuesday December 23rd. Family flowers only. A Memorial Service in Staindrop Parish Church will be announced later.

MAVOR - Ferrier (Michael) died suddenly and peacefully on December 17th, dear husband of the late Sheena. He was a very special father and father-in-law to Ian and Michael, Mary and Elizabeth and a very special grandfather to Guy, Jeremy, Veronica and Alexander. Service at West Road Crematorium, Newcastle upon Tyne, on Monday January 5th 1998 at 11.30 am. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to British Diabetic Association, 10 Queen Anne Street, London W1M 0BD.

McILVENNA - John Anthony McIlvenna, Maj. Gen. CB, died peacefully at home after a short illness on 18th December. Beloved husband of Hilde and dearly beloved father of Margaret and Michael, grandfather, great-grandfather and brother. Funeral on 24th December 1 pm at Headcorn Catholic Church, followed by burial at 2.30 pm at Tenterden Cemetery.

McKENZIE - On 19th December Mary S.L., dearly loved mother of Jeannie, Sheila and Rosie and dearly loved Gan Gan to Benedict and Hugo. Funeral private, family only 24th December.

RODGERS - Arthur Reginald on 17th December peacefully in hospital, a dearly loved husband, father and grandfather. Funeral Service at All Saints Church, Stanton-on-the-Wolds on Wednesday 24th December at 12 noon. Family flowers only. Donations if wished to Nurses Fund c/o Sister Shacklock, Spinal Unit, Queens Medical Centre, Nottingham NG7 2UH.

SEELEY - Evelyn on Tuesday 16th December 1997 peacefully at Lynde House Nursing Home, Twickenham. Funeral Service at Richmond Cemetery Chapel, East Sheen Cemetery at 12.30 pm on Monday 22nd December 1997.

STRACHAN - Rex peacefully with his loving family on December 18th 1997 aged 87 years. He bore his illness with great dignity and will be sadly missed by all. Funeral Service at the Holy Trinity, Pitlochry, on December 23rd at 2 pm.

TIMPSON - John Alastair Livingston M.C., formerly Scots Guards. Loved and loving husband of Aline. Died peacefully on 18th December. Funeral Service at the Minster, Ilminster, on Wednesday 24th December at 12.30 pm.

WARNER - John Leslie peacefully at Capwell Grange (formerly of Berkhampstead) on Saturday 13th December 1997, aged 86 years. Dearly loved husband of the late Margaret, also father of Anne. Funeral took place Amersham Crematorium Friday 19th December 4.30pm. Further enquiries to Luton Funeral Service, 266 Leagrave Road, tel: (01582) 493500.

WATERFIELD - On 18th December 1997 in hospital Michael Collins (Mick) Waterfield, aged 85 years. Dearly loved husband of Anne, much loved father of Susan, Chris and Peter. Funeral Service on Tuesday 23rd December 11 am at South Pool Church, nr. Kingsbridge. Followed by interment in Churchyard. Family flowers only. Donations in lieu if desired to South Pool Church by retiring collection or c/o John D. Andrews, 119 Fore Street, Kingsbridge, TQ7 1AL.

WAUGH - Michael suddenly on December 18th, much loved by his wife Margy and children Anthony, Charles and Michele. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him. Cremation will take place in Belgium on Saturday 20th December.

FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS

HUGHES - The funeral service of Francis Hughes, OBE, will be held at The Church of the Sacred Heart, Mayfield Lane, Wadhurst, Sussex, Saturday 20th December at 12.30 pm and afterwards at home.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

von CLEMM - A Memorial Service for Michael von Clemm will be held at Southwark Cathedral, Montague Close, London SE1 at 3 pm on Tuesday, 13th January 1998. A reception will be held after the service. All friends and colleagues are welcome.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COURT & SOCIAL
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Over the New Year period
the following deadlines will apply:

Notices for:-
Tuesday December 30th, should be received by noon on Monday December 29th; Wednesday December 31st, by 5pm on Monday December 29th; Thursday and Friday January 1st and 2nd 1998 by 5pm on Tuesday December 30th 1997; and Saturday and Monday January 3rd and 5th by 2pm on Wednesday December 31st.

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a signature of either one of the parties concerned or a parent,
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IN MEMORIAM — PRIVATE

APLEY - Alan FRCS December 20th 1996. In proud and loving memory of my beloved husband. You said that you never knew what love was until you met me. True love only comes once in a life time. Thank you for a wonderful happy marriage. Miss you so much, rest in peace my darling, I will see you in heaven where we shall be together through all eternity. Never to be parted again. V.

BARRON - Tim, December 21st your birthday. Always loved, always so missed by your family and friends. R.I.P.

FRY - Daphne Ann died 20th December 1996. The wind under my wings.

MURRAY DE KLEE - 3.1.28-21.12.96 In proud and everloving memory.

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NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to s27 of the TRUSTEE Act, 1925 that any person having a CLAIM against or an INTEREST in the ESTATE of any of the deceased person's whose names, addresses and descriptions are set out below is hereby required to send particulars in writing of his claim or interest to the person or persons mentioned in relation to the deceased person concerned before the date specified; after which date the estate of the deceased will be distributed by the personal representatives among the persons entitled thereto having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

SHHAR, AMELIA (otherwise AMY) of 14 St Andrews Road, Ilford, Essex died on 6 September 1997 particulars to OSMOND GAUNT & ROSE Solicitors of WINSTON HOUSE, 349 REGENTS PARK ROAD, FINCHLEY, LONDON N3 1DH (Ref: 26/268/97) before 21 February 1998.

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OBITUARIES

LILLIAN DISNEY

Lillian Disney, philanthropist and widow of Walt Disney, died on December 16 in Los Angeles aged 98. She was born in 1899.

Lillian Disney's greatest contribution to the animation empire founded by her husband Walt occurred not in a boardroom, but on a cross-country train. It was while travelling from New York to California in the 1920s that Disney, creator of a studio then experiencing financial stresses, gave birth to a cartoon character he hoped would help the business to recover from recent setbacks. He named him Mortimer Mouse, and, as he always did, bounced the idea off his wife.

"Not Mortimer," responded Lillian. "It's too formal. How about Mickey?" In that instant an empire was born, one largely built on the goodwill created by an animated mouse with a high-pitched voice and a smile.

One of the most recognisable of Hollywood icons, Mickey Mouse remains the universal symbol for the now much diversified Disney company. When President Nixon awarded Lillian Disney a gold commemorative medal honouring her husband in 1969, it was etched with a profile of Walt Disney on one side and Mickey Mouse on the other.

Yet Mickey Mouse was not Lillian Disney's only lasting contribution to the family business. Although she shunned the spotlight and never joined the Hollywood circuit, her influence was felt in every corner of the Disney empire, and in later life, in her hometown of Los Angeles as well.

Lillian Bounds was born in Spalding, Idaho, the tenth child of Jeanette and Willard Bounds. She grew up in Lapwai on the Nez Perce Indian Reservation, where her father worked for the Government as a blacksmith and Federal Marshal.

In 1923 she struck out for Los Angeles to join a sister, Hazel, and found work as a $15-a-week "inker" of film frames at the Disney studio. She met the studio chief Walt Disney soon after her arrival, and married him on July 13, 1925. During the studio's ascendancy Lillian chose to remain in the background and let her husband become the public face of Disney. Yet she was always present in an unofficial capacity, visiting the Disney offices regularly and issuing strong opinions on company decisions when she was asked.

Walt and Lillian Disney, and the famous Mickey Mouse image which owes its name to her inspiration

In particular she functioned as Walt Disney's personal sounding board, and it was she who approved plans to create a theme park called "Disneyland", and gave the green light to an animated feature about a fairytale character called Snow White. Her nephew Roy Disney described his aunt as loving but tough, a true pioneer and partner of her husband. "If life had required them to pull the wagon train across the country, they'd have done it," he said of their partnership.

Only once did Lillian Disney speak out publicly about family matters. Following the publication of the biography *Walt Disney: Hollywood's Dark Prince*, by Marc Eliot, which alleged that Walt Disney was an FBI informant and that their marriage was rocky, she denied the charges, saying they were fabricated.

After the death of her mogul husband in 1966, Lillian Disney adopted a new role, that of philanthropist. She founded the California Institute of the Arts, and donated $50 million for the construction of the Walt Disney Concert Hall, which is to be the home of the Los Angeles Philharmonic.

According to the project's architect, Frank Gehry, she was very specific in her insistence that the hall be for the masses not the elite, and insisted it be surrounded by gardens, because she loved flowers. The hall's opening has been delayed by financial shortfalls and is now scheduled for 2001.

In 1990 Lillian Disney received the Governor's Award for the Arts in recognition of her contributions to the arts in California, and last year she donated $100,000 to her childhood friends, the Nez Perce tribe, to buy ancient tribal artefacts.

She is survived by a daughter.

CECIL KENNEDY

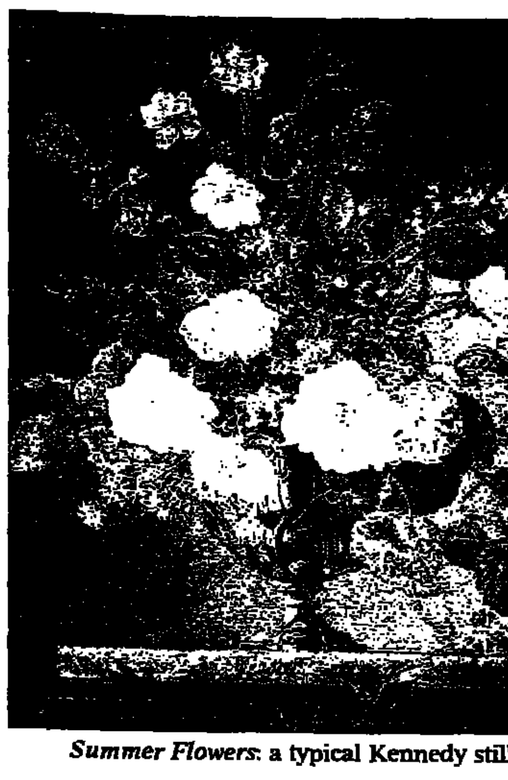
Cecil Kennedy, painter, died on December 12 aged 92. He was born on February 4, 1905.

CECIL KENNEDY will be best remembered for his accurate and appealing depictions of flowers, although he also worked as a portraitist. His best works, many of them produced during the 1960s, are admired for their exquisite detail and artful composition. His wife Winifred created the brilliant flower arrangements, usually in a vase from their collection of mid-18th-century Waterford vases, which continually inspired his work.

Cecil Kennedy was born into a large artistic Victorian family. He was the youngest of 13 children. His grandfather was an artist who had lived in France, sketched with Corot and exchanged drawings with him. His father was a landscape painter and four of his brothers were artists. His brother Charles, who died in the flu epidemic of 1918, was a particular influence on him. In the early 1930s he met and married Winifred Aves. She became his inspiration and for 64 years they worked together as a creative team.

In the Second World War he was called up and fought with 21st Army Group during the North West Europe campaign. He was in Antwerp during the winter of 1944, where he sought out and befriended Flemish painters. The opportunity to study Flemish and Dutch still-life paintings in their natural setting brought about a definite change in his own painting style. He maintained contact with Flemish artists up to his death.

Kennedy had many important patrons. Queen Mary bought his work, as did the Duke of Windsor and the Astors. Queen Mary once remarked: "When I see Cecil Kennedy's pictures I can smell the flowers and hear the hum of bees." She noticed that he had painted a ladybird on a flower stem. Thereafter all his paintings contained a ladybird. Lord Thomson of Fleet, a friend and patron, wrote about him and commented that "his pictures conveyed a joy of life and artistic creativity".



Summer Flowers: a typical Kennedy still-life

Kennedy had an important exhibiting career, showing before the age of 24 at both the Royal Scottish Academy and the Royal Hibernian Academy, regularly at the Royal Academy and in the regions. From the 1950s until the 1970s, he exhibited regularly with the Fine Art Society, who were keen advocates of his work. He was awarded a silver medal at the Paris Salon in 1956, and a gold medal in 1970. He was recently celebrated in a retrospective of contemporary flower painting, *Three Flower Painters*, held at the Richard Green Gallery earlier this year. Richard Green was one of several art dealers to champion Kennedy as an unsurpassed contemporary master of his genre, blending botanical accuracy and sensual effects.

Kennedy's artful juxtapositions of modern exotic hybrid blooms and humble favourites such as field grasses, as well as the plant species celebrated in the works of the Old Masters, revealed his knowledgeability as a plantsman as well as an artist.

While studying in the great national collections of the major artistic centres, London, Paris, Antwerp and Zurich, he fell under the influence of the Old Masters, from whom he derived his meticulous technique. The novelty of his all-white arrangements reflected an awareness of 20th-century horticultural innovations as well, such as Vita Sackville-West's "white garden" at Sissinghurst.

He is survived by his wife, Winifred, and a son.

FRANCIS PAUDRAS

Francis Paudras, jazz fan, committed suicide on November 26 aged 62. He was born in 1935.

ALONG with the Baroness Pannonica de Koenigswater — a member of the Rothschild dynasty and confidant of Charlie Parker — Francis Paudras earned a place in jazz history as the devoted guardian of a wayward talent. His close friendship with the ill-starred pianist Bud Powell during the musician's years in exile in Paris was to form the basis of the semi-fictionalised film *Round Midnight* (1986).

Aptly described by the American expatriate musician Mike Zwerin as "the kind of dedicated jazz fan only France can produce", Paudras was an accomplished amateur pianist and graphic designer who took Powell under his wing, and brought a sense of order to his chaotic life. In his care, Powell — an alcoholic who had long displayed increasing symptoms of schizophrenia — returned to something approaching full health and even began writing anew.

Paudras subsequently organised his idol's return to New York for a residency at the renowned Birdland club. Circumstances forced the two men apart at that stage, and although he had been due to return to Paris, Powell eventually stayed on in New York, slipping deeper into alcoholism and psychological disarray before his death, at the age of just 41, in 1966.

One of the founders of modern jazz piano in the 1940s, Powell was a mercurial improviser who adapted many of Charlie Parker's rhythmic innovations to the keyboard. Drink and drugs were, however, a constant ingredient in the frenetic crucible of bebop, and many of the inner circle followed Parker to an early grave.

Powell's drink problem was compounded by mental disorders. He was admitted to an institution shortly after being beaten over the head in a fracas with police in 1945; during subsequent stays in hospital he was subjected to electric-shock treatment. By the mid-1950s the effects of his dissipations were clearly apparent in his playing.

In 1959 he emigrated to Paris, regarded as a city where black American musicians and artists could live with a greater measure of dignity. His performances were well-received, but his life grew turbulent despite the efforts to keep him in order of his increasingly exasperated wife Altevia (known to intimates as Buttercup).

Many of Powell's friends resented Altevia's authoritarian hold over her husband, whom they regarded as virtually a prisoner in his own hotel room, dependent on his wife for his spending money. Paudras, a longstanding admirer of Powell's work, later recalled that he often saw him on Boulevard St Germain "begging like a bum to buy a drink". Overweight and unapproachable, Powell was prone to staring trance-like silently at the wall, his fingers in constant movement.

Paudras made his decisive intervention 1963, when Powell fell seriously ill with tuberculosis. One of the pianist's neighbours, the saxophonist Johnny Griffin, helped to persuade Altevia to allow her husband to move in with the young Frenchman. Powell spent a long period in hospital; Paudras is said to have taken three years to pay off the $50-a-day bill for treatment.

He devoted himself to his new house-guest. "For about seven months," he later recalled, "he hardly spoke a word to us except to ask for the butter or something ... We would eat in complete silence, other times he'd stay in his room." Powell began to recover; Paudras even appears to have managed to keep the pianist's fellow drinkers at arm's length.

Twenty years after Powell's death, the gregarious Paudras — who enjoyed close friendships with several other musicians — had the rare satisfaction of seeing his younger self recreated on the cinema screen in *Round Midnight*, the reverential depiction of the expatriate jazz life by the director Bertrand Tavernier. The larger-than-life saxophonist Dexter Gordon played the central character, Dale Turner, an ailing saxophonist modelled on Powell and the equally troubled Lester Young.

Paudras published a memoir, *La danse des infidèles*, in 1986. He later wrote of Powell: "I owe Bud Powell the best part of my life, the best part of myself. He was and is my beacon and my fortress. Apart from the message of his music, he taught me how to live."

KOBAL

A scene from *Round Midnight*, the film that told the story of Bud Powell's life

Paudras collaborated with Charlie Parker's widow, Chan, on the photographic book *To Bird With Love*. Towards the end of his life he had a hand in launching the career of one of Powell's spiritual heirs, the young pianist Jacky Terrasson, who studied music at the Lycée Lamartine alongside Paudras's son Stéphane, and made regular use of Paudras Sr's extensive library of recordings and films.

Francis Paudras is survived by two sons and a daughter.

MILESTONES

Giovanni Agnelli, heir to the Fiat empire, died on December 13 aged 33. He was born on April 19, 1964.

The succession to the very public role of head of the Agnelli group of companies — which are estimated to account for more than 5 per cent of Italy's economy — is again in turmoil after the death from intestinal cancer of the nephew of the patriarch. Gianni Agnelli is now 76, and he had expected his mantle to pass to Giovanni, the son of his younger brother, Umberto, during the next year. Giovanni enjoyed a gilded life. Though publicity-shy, he had inherited the family panache, and his personal popularity had helped to restore the faith of Italians in an industrial class deeply discredited by corruption scandals. Brought up in America, he prepared diligently for his destined role, working for IBM and S G Warburg, and on the factory-floor of one of the Fiat companies, before taking over the Piaggio company — which makes scooters — and moving it from loss to profit in short order.

Obituary published on December 15.

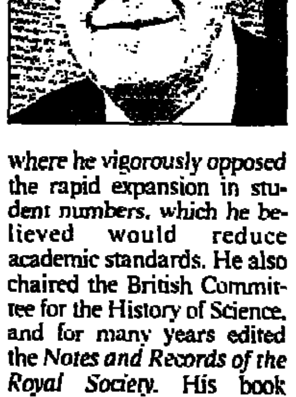
Stubby Kaye, American actor and singer, died on December 15 aged 79. He was born on November 11, 1918.

Stubby Kaye — whose real name was Bernard Kotzin — played Nicely-Nicely Johnson in the original Broadway production of *Guys and Dolls*, the success of which later came to seem almost a curse. He had previously performed in vaudeville and entertainments for the troops in London, but found himself underemployed when he returned to New York after the war. His girth and geniality were exactly right for the part of Nicely-Nicely, and his rendition of the spoof spiritual *Sit Down, You're Rockin' the Boat* was one of the great show-stoppers. Naturally he was asked to play the part again in the film, and he made himself at home in Hollywood. But although he appeared in movies including *You Can't Run Away From It*, *The Cool Mikado* and *It Happened One Night*, he never again found a vehicle robust enough for his particular talent.

Obituary published on December 17.

R. V. Jones, CH, CB, CBE, FRS, wartime intelligence scientist, died in Aberdeen on December 17 aged 86. He was born on September 27, 1911.

Reginald Jones was the Oxford scientist who discovered and then explained to Churchill's War Cabinet the techniques that the Germans had perfected to send bombers along radio beams to their targets. Churchill gave him the resources to combat this menace, as Assistant Director of Intelligence (Science) at the Air Ministry. Among Jones's many successful ideas to disrupt the Luftwaffe was "window", the use of strips of metallic foil dropped from bombers to confuse enemy ground radar. Much later he was responsible for analysing the flood of intelligence about the V1 and the V2. In 1946 he became Professor of Natural Philosophy at the University of Aberdeen, where he vigorously opposed the rapid expansion in student numbers, which he believed would reduce academic standards. He also chaired the British Committee for the History of Science, and for many years edited the *Notes and Records of the Royal Society*. His book about his exploits, *Most Secret War*, provided the material forthe Yorkshire Television documentary series *The Secret War of Dr Jones*.



Obituary published on December 19.

PERSONAL COLUMN

LEGAL NOTICES

TBS SERVICES (NO.1) LIMITED
COMPANY NUMBER: 960198
ABBEY LIFE SERVICES (OVERSEAS) LIMITED
COMPANY NUMBER: 2325036
BLACK HORSE CHAIRMAKER LIMITED
COMPANY NUMBER: 1938737
COOKE & ARKWRIGHT BUILDING SERVICES LIMITED
COMPANY NUMBER: 2097630
COOKE & ARKWRIGHT RESIDENTIAL LIMITED
COMPANY NUMBER: 1997057
FAIRLIE ROBERTSON FINANCIAL SERVICES LIMITED
COMPANY NUMBER: 1793122
LAMBERT'S TRUST LIMITED
COMPANY NUMBER: 214268
T.P.G. INSURANCE SERVICES LIMITED
COMPANY NUMBER: 1552694
TSB INSURANCE SERVICES LIMITED
COMPANY NUMBER: 1630736
TBS MOTOR INSURANCE SERVICES LIMITED
COMPANY NUMBER: 2352024
NLN PENSION CONSULTANTS LIMITED
COMPANY NUMBER: 1110767
WEMS LIMITED
COMPANY NUMBER: 1193139
TSB GROUP COMPUTER SERVICES LIMITED
COMPANY NUMBER: 1579997
LMB SERVICES LIMITED
COMPANY NUMBER: 1583994
(ALL IN MEMBERS' VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION)
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
On 11 December 1997 the above named companies were placed in members' voluntary liquidation and Colin Graham Bird of Price Waterhouse was appointed liquidator by the shareholders.
The liquidator gives notice under the provisions of Rule 4.182A of the Insolvency Rules 1986 that the creditors of the companies must send details, in writing, of any claim against the companies to the liquidator, at No 1, London Bridge, London SE1 9QL by 19 January 1998 which is the last day for proving claims. The liquidator also gives notice that he will then make a final distribution to creditors and that a creditor who does not make a claim by the date mentioned will not be included in the distribution.
The companies are able to pay all their known creditors in full.
Date 16 December 1997
CG Bird
Liquidator

UDT INDUSTRIES LIMITED
COMPANY NUMBER: 711929
(IN MEMBERS' VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION)
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
On 9 December 1997 the above named company was placed in members' voluntary liquidation and Colin Graham Bird of Price Waterhouse was appointed liquidator by the shareholders.
The liquidator gives notice under the provision of Rule 4.182A of the Insolvency Rules 1986 that the creditors of the company must send details, in writing, of any claim against the company to the liquidator, at No 1 London Bridge, London SE1 9QL by 19 January 1998 which is the last day for proving claims. The liquidator also gives notice that he will then make a final distribution to creditors and that a creditor who does not make a claim by the date mentioned will not be included in the distribution.
The company is able to pay all its known creditors in full.
Date 16 December 1997.
CG Bird
Liquidator

In the matter of Der-Trans Limited
and in the matter of the Insolvency Act 1986
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a meeting of the unsecured creditors of the above company will be held pursuant to section 48(2) of the Insolvency Act 1986 at 20 Farringdon Street, London EC4A 4PP, on 6 January 1998 at 10.00 for the purpose of receiving the report of the administrative receivers and, if thought fit, appointing a creditors' committee. A creditor will be entitled to vote only if a written statement of claim is submitted to me at the above address by 12 noon on 5 January 1998 and if the claim is admitted for voting purposes. Any proxies that are intended to be used must be submitted to me before the meeting. A creditor whose claim is wholly secured is not entitled to attend or be represented at the meeting.
Date 18 December 1997
AB Thompson
Joint Administrative Receiver

JP MORGAN STERLING SECURITIES LIMITED
COMPANY NUMBER: 1971298
MORGAN GUARANTY HOLDINGS LTD.
COMPANY NUMBER: 1981098
KIPPS NOMINEES LTD.
COMPANY NUMBER: 1972895
(ALL IN MEMBERS' VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION)
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
On 10 December 1997, the above named companies were placed in members' voluntary liquidation and Colin Graham Bird and Anthony Victor Lomas of Price Waterhouse were appointed Joint Liquidators by the shareholders.
The liquidators give notice under the provision of Rule 4.182A of the Insolvency Rules 1986 that the creditors of the companies must send details, in writing, of any claim against the companies to the liquidators, at No 1 London Bridge, London SE1 9QL by 15 January 1998 which is the last day for proving claims. The liquidators also give notice that they will make a final distribution to creditors and that a creditor who does not make a claim by the date mentioned will not be included in the distribution.
The companies are able to pay all their known creditors in full.
Date 16 December 1997
CG Bird
Joint Liquidator

POSSIBLE BENEFICIARIES
Would Harriet Mary (Ettie) nee Cocks, Charles Cocks, Annie nee Cocks, Margaret (Daisy) nee Cocks, Kate (Kitty) nee Cocks, Herbert Dawson Cocks (children of Thomas Cocks and Mary Ann Cocks nee Kidd), Walter James Costello, Annie Regonith nee Costello (children of Michael Costello and Mary Josephine Costello nee Boyce) or Elsie Dorn nee Cocks (child of Charles Cocks and Fannie Cocks nee Johnson) or Lily Mary nee Costello (child of Walter James Costello and Mary Ellen Costello nee Cleary) or their issue or any person knowing their whereabouts or claiming to be related to them or Edmund Joseph Walter Cocks deceased please contact The Public Trustee of Queensland, GPO Box 2251, Brisbane, Queensland, 4001 quoting reference E744-2270456 and provide full details of their claim.
Notice is hereby given on or after the 10 March 1998 the Public Trustee intends, pursuant to Section 132 of the Public Trustee Act 1978 to proceed to distribute the assets in the estate of Edmund Joseph Walter Cocks deceased late of Brisbane in the State of Queensland having regard only to the persons whose claims have been established to his satisfaction or who then appear to him to have the best claim in law.
M BROWNE
REGIONAL MANAGER
PUBLIC TRUST OFFICE
BRISBANE SOUTH REGION

BLACK HORSE AGENCIES - AMBROSE
COMPANY NUMBER: 2097213
BLACK HORSE AGENCIES - TAYLOR & CO
COMPANY NUMBER: 2097212
BROADER & SPENCER
COMPANY NUMBER: 2153841
HERRINGS
COMPANY NUMBER: 1882011
PROCTER GARDINER & SUMNER
COMPANY NUMBER: 615608
(ALL IN MEMBERS' VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION)
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
On 8 December 1997 the above named companies were placed in members' voluntary liquidation and Colin Graham Bird of Price Waterhouse was appointed liquidator by the shareholders.
The liquidator gives notice under the provisions of Rule 4.182A of the Insolvency Rules 1986 that the creditors of the companies must send details, in writing, of any claim against the companies to the liquidator, at No 1 London Bridge, London SE1 9QL by 19 January 1998 which is the last day for proving claims and that a creditor who does not make a claim by the date mentioned will not be included in the distribution.
The companies are able to pay all their known creditors in full.
Date 16 December 1997
CG Bird
Liquidator

PROBATE CITATION
File No 1606/97
SURROGATE'S COURT - COUNTY CITATION
THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
By the grace of God Free and Independent
TO: Mrs Hazel Wachter
A petition having been duly filed by James H. Davis, who is domiciled at 1170 E. Main Street, Shrub Oak, NY 10588.
YOU ARE HEREBY CITED TO SHOW CAUSE before the Surrogate's Court, Westchester County, at 140 Grand St., White Plains, New York, on January 21 1998, at 9.30 o'clock in the forenoon of that day, why a decree should not be made in the estate of Barbara E. Hobbs lately domiciled at 3477 Stoney Street, Shrub Oak, NY 10588 admitting to probate a Will dated May 5, 1997, a copy of which is attached, as the Will of Barbara E. Hobbs deceased, relating to real and personal property, and directing that Letters Testamentary issue to: James H. Davis, Esq.
Dated, Attested and Sealed, December 9, 1997.
HON Albert J Emanuelli, Surrogate.
John W Kelly, Chief Clerk.
James H. Davis Esq., 1170 E. Main Street, Shrub Oak, NY. Telephone number (914) 245-4482.
Attorney for Petitioner: Gary E. Bashian, Esq., of Counsel, 235 Main Street, White Plains, NY 10601.
Telephone number (914) 946 5800.

REDLAND ROOF TILES UK LIMITED
COMPANY NUMBER: 00041103
STEETLEY LIMITED (formerly known as Steetley PLC)
COMPANY NUMBER: 00245750
(ALL IN MEMBERS' VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION)
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Following reorganisation and reconstruction of the group, the above named companies were put into solvent liquidation by the members of the companies on 25 November 1997. As such, all creditors with valid claims either have been, or will be, paid in full.
Notices that follow are purely formal giving creditors notice of the liquidator's appointment and the steps creditors should take to register any claim they may have against the above named companies.
On 25 November 1997 the above named companies were placed in Members' Voluntary Liquidation and Colin Graham Bird of Price Waterhouse was appointed Liquidator by the shareholders.
The Liquidator gives notice under the provisions of Rule 4.182A of the Insolvency Rules 1986 that the creditors of the companies must send details, in writing, of any claim against the companies to the Liquidator, at No 1 London Bridge, London SE1 9QL by 19 January 1997 which is the last day for proving claims. The Liquidator also gives notice that he will then make a final distribution to creditors and that a creditor who does not make a claim by the date mentioned will not be included in the distribution.
All known creditors have been or will be paid in full.
Date 17 December 1997
CG Bird
Liquidator

THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
BLUESLATE LIMITED
(IN LIQUIDATION)
We, Margaret Elizabeth Mills and Alan Robert Bloom hereby give notice that at an Extraordinary General Meeting held on 8 December 1997 we were appointed joint liquidators of the above-named company. At a subsequent meeting of creditors held on 17 December 1997 our appointment was confirmed.
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Creditors of the above company are required, on or before the 14 January 1998 to send in their full names and addresses, full particulars of their debts or claims, and the names and addresses of their solicitors (if any) to us, Margaret Elizabeth Mills and Alan Robert Bloom, of Ernst & Young, Becket House, 1 Lambeth Palace Road, London SE1 7EU and if so required by notice in writing from us, are personally or by their solicitors to come in and prove their debts or claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice, or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts are proved.
Dated this 17th day of December 1997
M E Mills, Joint Liquidator

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Losses across the board for equities

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
584	407½	Allied Domecq†	510	-17	4.8	13.1
626	382½	Bulmer (HP)	380		4.8	11.9
75½	40½	Burn Stewart	42½		10.0	14.8
639½	424	Diageo	571	-6½	3.2	17.4
1040	850	Glenmorangie A	865		1.9	20.6
380	280	Highland Distl	287½	-5	3.9	13.3
336	181½	Matthew Clark	182½	-2	14.1	5.7
109½	40½	Mrydum W	63½		6.1	.
2009½	1368½	SA Breweries†	1437½	-65½	2.5	.

BANKS

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
1521½	918½	ABN-AMRO	1206½	-37½	2.6	17.4
1280	710	Abbey Nat	1065	-40	3.2	17.4
855	532½	Alliance & Leic	799	-28	2.6	18.7
606	388½	Allied Irish	567½	-7	3.2	16.7
516½	383½	Aus New Z	382	-16	5.3	.
4963½	2875	Bank America†	4412½	-143½		
606	291½	Bank Scotland	559	-47	2.0	15.5
1800	978½	Barclays	1619	-58	2.6	16.4
924½	517½	Bk of Ireland	895	-21½	2.3	19.6
8859½	6806½	Citicorp	7603½	-293½		
1759½	1298½	Commerzbk	1643½	-18½	2.8	
862½	403½	Dai Ichi Kan Y	406½	-40½	1.0	.
4553½	2709½	Deutsche Bk	4190½	-90½	1.5	
1300	759½	Espirito Santo	1168½	6½	3.1	
947½	244	Fuji Bank Y	244	-34½	1.6	47.5
2389½	1272½	HSBC	1529	-45	3.8	12.3
2258½	1238	HSBC Hk	1453	-40	4.0	11.8
783	507	Halifax	761	-3½	2.4	25.6
645	483½	Irish Perm	635		2.4	17.6
860½	424	Lloyds TSB	730	-41½	2.4	21.3
1008	668½	Nat Aust Bk	797½	-42½	4.7	
1081	663½	Nat West	1010	-65	3.7	15.9
566½	449	Northern Rock	563½	+17	2.0	22.2
790	508	Ryl Bk Scott	750	-19	3.6	14.7
1093½	592½	Stand Chart	655	-32	3.0	11.4
£164½	£164½	Wells Fargo	£164½		1.9	
403½	315½	Westpac	368½	-9½	3.8	
373½	267½	Woolwich	320	-8	3.1	16.9

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
966	655	Bass†	919	-30	3.7	16.6
68½	43½	Brit for the Bdr	54½		4.4	16.1
306	132½	Burtonwood Brw	190½	-2	5.9	13.1
155½	121½	City Centre Rest	133½		2.3	20.7
768½	579½	Compass Gp	735	-11½	1.7	25.3
385	250	Eldridge P 'A'	289½		2.7	..
266½	221	Enterprise Inns†	244½		3.8	
485	412	Fuller Sm 'A'†	425	-2½	3.1	13.7
586	319	Greenalls Grp	427	+1	5.0	10.4
770	610	Greene King†	706½	+3	3.0	14.5
237½	152½	Grosvenor Inns	197½		4.0	20.6
290½	218½	Groupe Chez Ger	281½		1.4	22.7
298½	213½	Hardy Hanson	229		6.4	
2850	2075	Holt J	2125		3.5	11.9
78	56	Inn Business	62½	+2	3.2	10.0
357	293	Mansfield†	301		3.0	12.4
315½	252	Marston Thmpt	268		3.9	9.5
815	452½	Morland	455	+2½	3.7	
293½	210	Old Eng Pub	293½	+24½	1.0	21.2
47½	18½	Paramount	31			
853	527½	PizzaExpress	779	-20	0.5	40.3
437½	310	Ransomes (H)	325		1.9	28.8

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
580	530	Boxmoor	580		3.5	14.0
27	10½	Bridgend Grp	11½	-1	2.2	52.5
119½	94½	Brit Fittings	95	...	5.9	7.6
360	300	Caliwest†	342		4.8	7.9
225	162½	Car Group	192½	-1	3.1	17.9
172½	117½	Caverdale	131½		3.6	7.6
100	61½	Charles Sidney	87½		4.5	12.5
59½	42	Cook (DC)	43½		7.2	8.0
121	90½	Dag Motors	96½		10.4	6.3
134½	102½	Dennans D	105½		3.3	9.7
400	215	Diploma†	223½		8.1	9.1
502½	387½	Electrocomponts†	457	+4	2.2	24.6
228½	117½	Eurodis Elec	153½		4.2	30.0
105	76½	European Mtrl	94		7.8	7.3
300	213	Evans Halshaw	290	...	7.1	
55½	39½	Fife Indmar	47½		8.9	7.8
397½	275	Finelist Grp	341½	+5	2.8	15.2
34½	19½	Gardiner	21½		6.5	7.9
79½	57½	Glenchewton	67½		2.9	11.0
110	82½	Gowrings	92½	-3	4.2	15.4
15½	11	HR Owen	13½	+¼	6.7	9.1
183	70½	Harold#	72½		..	21
374	284½	Headlam†	325½		2.3	19.8
172	145	Holders Tech	150		5.4	12.2
240½	66½	ISA Intl	67½	-½	5.5	5.3
308½	158½	Inchcape†	158½	-9	2.2	10.4
72	49½	Jacks (Wm)	57½	..	5.4	7.4
343½	214½	Kwik-Fit	337	..	2.2	18.5
460½	316½	Lex Service	452½	..	4.5	13.6
122	97	Lookers	109½	+½	9.1	7.9
9	5½	Middlesex	5½	-¼	2.4	12.9
41½	10½	Midstates	19		3.2	
472	180	Norbain†	274	-1	4.0	11.1
233½	114½	Northamber†	223		1.4	16.3
352½	285½	Partco	310	-2	3.3	16.4
394½	254½	Pendragon	272½		4.7	12.0
223½	172½	Perry Gp	179½		6.4	7.9
751	403½	Premier Farnell	411½	..	3.8	15.2
144½	116	Quicks Group	120		7.8	8.0
357	285	REA	285	-2½	1.8	63.0
2½	1½	Reece	1½		..	50.2
28	9½	Reeson	11½	-½		
4	1½	Ross Gp	3½	...		
109½	78½	Ryland	101½	-½	5.0	9.6
38	24	SEP Ind	38		5.7	
92½	25	Saltire	27		5.6	
415½	168	Time Products†	171	-32½	9.1	7.0
347	159½	Trust Motor Grp†	159½	-3	8.8	7.0
408	228	UMECO	400		1.8	21.2
93½	59	United Ocean Co	88	+1½	0.5	19.0
352½	237½	Vardy (Reg)	246	+2½	4.0	11.5
865	498½	WF Elect	650	+5	2.9	22.3
41	25½	Wilshaw†	37½	-1½	2.8	10.1
172½	111½	Wyko	144½		2.6	16.0
159½	119½	Young (H)	150½	-3	3.9	10.5

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
492½	327½	Antofagasta	337½		1.9	17.3
328	232	Ascot Hldgs	248	-1½	2.6	10.8
917	509	Broken Hill	539½	-17	3.7	14.9
289	174	BTR	184½	+3½	6.0	6.4
624	462	BAT†	546	-22	6.0	13.5
60½	41	Bearley Inv	41½	-½	11.5	6.7
358	182	Cookson	196	-1	5.1	12.3
240½	197½	Cosalt	232½	+3	6.2	
415	256½	DCC†	414		2.4	15.4
364	243½	Gallaher	342½	-15½	7.0	10.7
140½	101½	Harrisons Cosfd	130	+5	9.5	14.5
667½	388½	Hutch Whamp	360½	-12½	3.2	22.2
438½	361	Imperial Tob†	394	-6	6.8	9.7
522½	262½	Jardine Math	362½	-4½	6.7	10.3
158½	86½	Lonrho	91½		6.5	9.5

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LONGS (over 15 years)

UNDATED

MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of:

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HOT SEAT 26

Man from the Pru faces his toughest test

BUSINESS

WEEKEND MONEY SECTION 2

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

SATURDAY DECEMBER 20 1997

Eurotunnel negotiates 34-year extension to franchise

By Christine Buckley and Jason Nissé

EUROTUNNEL yesterday struck agreement with the UK and French Governments to operate the Channel Tunnel until 2086. The move ends prolonged uncertainty over Eurotunnel's long-term prospects but comes at a much higher price than the French Government had wanted.

The deal was reached after the company agreed to accept £62 million to settle a long-running dispute with Transmanche Link, the consortium of contractors that built the tunnel and supplied the rolling stock.

To continue running the tunnel from 2052 Eurotunnel will pay the two Governments 59 per cent of its profits until 2086. France, which has many small shareholders in Eurotunnel, had wanted the company to give up just 25 per cent.

The profit share includes the corporation tax already charged by the two Governments, which Eurotunnel estimates would have worked out at around 40 per cent. The agreement was announced after the stock market had closed. Eurotunnel shares ended 2p lower at 57p, matching an all-time low.

John Prescott, Deputy Prime Minister, said: "These have been tough negotiations, but I believe that we now have in place an excellent deal for Britain, France and Europe. I have been determined to ensure that, using the desire on the part of Eurotunnel and the French Government for a longer concession, we improve the conditions for the movement of railfreight through the Tunnel and into Europe."

Freight has been a key issue in the negotiations and Eurotunnel has agreed to limit its charges for new users. But John Noulton, director of public affairs at Eurotunnel, said the company had made no concessions on the rates charged for freight passing through the tunnel, other than an agreement to work with hauliers to promote carrying more freight by rail. "This is why we have agreed to a slightly higher profit share with the Government."

The French Government is to build an international freight freeway from the Channel Tunnel to Metz and Strasbourg and towards Italy and Spain. SNCF, the French railway operator, is also to work with Railfreight Distribution, the British operator, to develop its business. Eurotunnel has also made assurances to Railfreight Distribution about the long-term future of Channel Tunnel railfreight.

The deal with Eurotunnel's contractors — which include Balfour Beatty, Tarmac, Taylor Woodrow and several French companies — ends a two-year battle in which Eurotunnel has said it has not been able to undertake maintenance work because of prohibitive arrangements. It has claimed it has been beset by problems.

Transmanche Link is to pay Eurotunnel £40 million to settle the dispute and will end claims against the tunnel operator.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	5020.2	(-148.1)
Yield	3.24%	
FTSE All share	2361.28	(-56.00)
Nikkei	15314.89	(-846.75)
New York:		
Dow Jones	7668.86	(-177.65)*
S&P Composite	935.05	(-20.25)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	5[illegible]%*	(5[illegible]%)
Long Bond	103[illegible]*	(102[illegible])
Yield	5.88%*	(5.94%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth interbank	7[illegible]%	(7[illegible]%)
Liffe long gilt future (Mar)	121[illegible]	(121[illegible])

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.6685*	(1.6645)
London:		
$	1.6685	(1.6607)
DM	2.9513	(2.9436)
FFr	9.8886	(9.8554)
SFr	2.3845	(2.3852)
Yen	215.19	(213.20)
£ Index	104.5	(104.1)

DOLLAR

London:		
DM	1.7685*	(1.7750)
FFr	5.9235*	(5.9430)
SFr	1.4277*	(1.4370)
Yen	129.00*	(128.71)
$ Index	108.0	(107.9)

Tokyo close Yen 128.55

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Mar)	$17.70	($17.85)

GOLD

London close	$288.25	($289.75)

* denotes midday trading price

Beckett clears £3.6bn bid for Energy Group

By Christine Buckley
Industrial Correspondent

THE £3.6 BILLION bid for The Energy Group was yesterday cleared by the Government in a move that could trigger wide-ranging changes in the power industry.

The blessing by Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade, of the Pacificorp bid is the first signal of the Government's attitude to vertical integration in electricity and the first pointer to its plans on utility regulation reform. It also comes amid government bargaining with the generators over coal supplies in efforts to save the UK coal industry. Short-term measures have been struck but longer-term consultation continues as the Government moves to establish an energy policy.

Mrs Beckett's endorsement of the bid follows approval by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission which raised no questions over public interest and did not impose extra financial requirements on Pacificorp — despite fears over its debt levels.

The Energy Group, which includes Eastern, the generator, electricity distributor and gas business, and Peabody Coal in the United States, is now expected to press Pacificorp to rebid quickly. The original bid has lapsed and Pacificorp is expected to have to pay a higher price. Its first bid was 690p a share. Market speculation suggests a renewed 730p a share bid which would value The Energy Group at £3.8 billion.

The Energy Group is thought to want quick action from Pacificorp because its ambitions in the US are being frustrated while a bid is pending. Pacificorp still faces regulatory hurdles in the US from the Federal Trade Commission and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission but it could move before their reports.

Yesterday the shares moved up 10p to 665p although one analyst said: "Strategically this is a very important company and to buy it at 690p a share would be to walk away with a bargain."

The Pacificorp ruling has been long awaited by the energy industry as a key pointer of Labour policy on the electricity industry. Its signals on the attitude to vertical integration have been keenly awaited by PowerGen, the second biggest generator, which is keen to buy all or part of a regional electricity company. Yesterday the company said: "We welcome the fact that the bid has gone through."

Mrs Beckett said the MMC had been satisfied that existing regulatory arrangements were sufficient to ensure that Pacificorp maintained adequate investment in Eastern. She said: "The MMC concluded that Pacificorp was unlikely to put the relationship with the (regulator) at risk by failing to honour assurances."

Derek Bonham, chairman of The Energy Group, welcomed the approval although he said until all regulatory obstacles were removed the company could make no more comment. Pacificorp said it was also pleased with the approval.

John Devaney, Eastern's executive chairman, is set to cash in shares worth over £521,000 on the current value of Pacificorp's bid. This will top up the £1.3 million he got selling share options when Hanson took over Eastern. He is likely to remain at the helm of Eastern but if he leaves within a year he is entitled to two years' money — £700,000.

Commentary, page 25

John Devaney is likely to remain in charge of Eastern

FTSE stung by worries from Far East

By Michael Clark, Stock Market Correspondent

STOCK markets around the world were suffering from a severe bout of "Asian flu" that left share prices nursing heavy losses.

In London, the FTSE 100 index tumbled 148.1 to 5,020.2, having briefly dipped below the 5,000 level. At one stage, the Dow Jones industrial average tumbled almost 270 points before rallying to reduce the fall to 145.7 at 7,700.74 in mid-afternoon trading.

The domino effect started in Tokyo after news that Toshoku, a big Japanese food supplier, had been allowed to go to the wall. This prompted fears that the banks had started to get tough with borrowers and that other big companies may go bust. The Nikkei 225 fell more than 1,000 points at one stage, before ending 846 down at 15,314.89. The Hang Seng in Hong Kong dropped almost 350 points to 10,405.81, while the elections in South Korea created fresh worries about the viability of the economic rescue package put together by the International Monetary Fund.

But it was always going to be a nervous day in London with the Stock Exchange's new computerised trading system, Sets, being put to the test by the double-witching hour that marks the expiry of the options and financial futures in London.

In the event, it passed the test without any signs of the market manipulation for which two traders at J P Morgan had been sacked on Thursday.

But just as the London market showed signs of recovery it was hit by fresh falls on Wall Street. Blue chips bore the brunt of the losses in London where of the top 100 companies only nine managed to finish the session in positive territory.

Stock market, page 27

TransTec directors raise stakes

A PAIR of directors at TransTec, the engineering company founded by Geoffrey Robinson, now Paymaster General, have raised their stakes in the group. The two purchases were made after a 19p fall in the shares to 67½p on Thursday (Chris Ayres writes).

The company, whose shares were 119½p earlier this year, has suffered partly from the controversy over Mr Robinson's financial affairs. The Paymaster General has been under fire over the purchase of £12.5 million worth of TransTec shares by an offshore trust of which he is a beneficiary.

Yesterday Bill Jeffrey, finance director, and Richard Rimington, deputy chairman, took advantage of the share price fall to lift their stakes. Mr Jeffrey bought shares worth £21,000 and Mr Rimington made a £7,700 purchase. The shares closed up 10p at 77½p.

Barclay's application for casino refused

By Raymond Snoddy, Media Editor

AIDAN BARCLAY, son of the multimillionaire businessman David Barclay, has had his application for a casino licence for London's Ritz Hotel turned down by magistrates.

Horseferry Magistrates yesterday rejected Mr Barclay's application on the grounds that he had failed to make a case that there was public demand for another top-class casino in the area. Under 1968 legislation magistrates have an additional discretion they can use to grant a licence. They declined to exercise it in Mr Barclay's favour. An appeal against the decision to the Crown Court is now likely.

Mr Barclay's father and uncle own the Ritz Hotel but the present casino in the basement is operated by London Clubs International. The lease is about to run out and London Clubs is taking its casino licence to a new central London venue. Mr Barclay's case is that the Ritz Hotel should have a casino licence as part of the tourist attractions of Central London. The company that made the application, Ritz Hotel Casinos, which is backed by Aidan Barclay's own funds, found it difficult to prove a demand for a casino in the Ritz because it was unable to advertise its application.

Guinness Mahon has hand in Basil Brush deal

By Chris Ayres

BASIL BRUSH, the mischievous fox whose "boom-boom" catchphrase entertained television viewers in the 1970s, is to return to the world of entertainment after a £1 million investment from Guinness Mahon, the venture capitalist.

The rights to the tweed-clad children's character were bought in July by Bill Haslam, an obsessive fan who runs Boom Boom Limited, of Southampton. Guinness Mahon has decided to back the venture, which has been formed to exploit intellectual property rights through television, publishing, cinema, merchandising and theatre production.

Mr Haslam spent more than a year negotiating with Ivan Owen and Peter Firmin, the creators of Basil Brush. It is not known how much was eventually paid for the rights, though Mr Haslam said yesterday: "It was the most expensive cuddly toy I've ever bought."

Guinness Mahon's investment follows its backing of Sooty, another popular, though less aggressive, children's character. The group was also one of the original investors in the Britt Allcroft Group, owner of the rights to Thomas the Tank Engine. Gordon Power, of Guinness Mahon, said: "We have a long history of successful investment in media companies and we are unusual among fund managers in that we understand and recognise the value of intellectual property rights. Basil Brush is a classic English character which we see as having huge growth potential in both the UK and international markets."

Basil Brush: "marketable"

Mr Haslam added: "The deal represents a great opportunity for us to develop Basil Brush and other characters. It enables us to ensure that we recreate a new Basil that is true to his original spirit while making him a globally marketable personality."

Boom Boom is in talks with television stations in the hope of Basil returning to TV screens by Christmas 1998. There will also be a cartoon series based on the character.

Hambros sells bank for £300m

By Jason Nissé

HAMBROS yesterday ended 158 years of tradition by selling its merchant banking operations to Société Générale, the French bank, for £300 million.

Sir Chips Keswick, the Hambros chairman who has spent 32 years with the bank, said it was a hard decision to make but the price offered, which represents an £18 million premium to the bank's net assets, was too good. "We had to decide whether the shareholder value offered by the deal could be matched by staying independent," said Sir Chips. "We concluded it could not in the foreseeable future."

Regent Pacific, the Hong Kong investment group that bought a 3 per cent stake last year and pressed Hambros to break itself up, saluted the deal. Julian Mayo, of Regent, said: "They could have got better value a year ago when we first suggested a break-up. This has been a wasted year."

The deal leaves Hambros as a holding company with about £250 million of cash, majority stakes in two public companies — Hambro Countrywide and Hambro Insurance Services — a 44 per cent stake in Hambro Guinness Flight, the fund manager, plus £130 million of investments.

Simon Leathes, who takes over as chief executive of Hambros as part of the deal, said it would review the best way of selling its stakes. "Clearly there would be a control premium if we sold the holdings to someone who would make a bid for either of the companies, but it may be that it is best merely to hand the shares out to shareholders," said Mr Leathes.

Hambros will also look at the best way of distributing the £300 million proceeds of the SocGen sale to shareholders next year without incurring too large a tax bill.

Commentary, page 25

A WEEK IN THE CITY

Goodbye, Guinness and Grand Metropolitan. Hello, Diageo, the newly merged food-and-drink group, which saw its shares begin trading this week. There was the usual clutch of festive payouts, while the re-engineering of the corporate UK landscape continued apace.

Asda ruled out a bid for Safeway, while Philip Green, former chief executive of Amber Day, bought Shoe Express from Sears, continuing the break-up of the once mighty Sears shoe empire.

Bass went on a disposals spree, selling its Gala bingo chain to the management, then unloading 1,428 pubs to a venture led by Hugh Osmond and Roger Myers. The City is looking to Bass to make a big acquisition.

Brent Walker quietly slipped into receivership — a belated casualty of cavalier 1980s' expansion. The group's last major asset, the William Hill betting chain, was sold recently, leaving little more than a shell. George Walker built Brent Walker into one of the UK's biggest leisure and property groups, with interests from pubs, casinos and film financing to property developments including the Brighton Marina.

Angel Trains, one of the three privatised rolling stock leasing companies, was sold to the Royal Bank of Scotland for £395 million, netting a handsome profit for Nomura, which bought it from the Government just over two years ago. In the Square Mile, Hansgeorg Hoffman resigned as chairman of Dresdner Kleinwort Benson amid allegations of tax evasion, while JP Morgan was hit with a £350,000 fine for market manipulation. Two traders have been dismissed.

Not a good week for Danka Business Systems, the Anglo-American photocopier company, which saw its shares drop 60 per cent in one day on a warning over sales. An even worse week for Sir Peter Davis, chief executive of Prudential Corporation, which was lambasted by the Financial Services Authority over rule breaches and shabby conduct. Arthur Andersen and Andersen Consulting renewed efforts to go their separate ways.

British Airways dipped and soared its way through the week, losing to Sir Freddie Laker in an American court action involving landing slots at Gatwick, then winning clearance to fly to Denver — the last non-stop route available under the bilateral UK-US treaty. Virgin Atlantic wanted to fly to Las Vegas instead. BA denied bizarre reports that one of its planes landing at Marrakesh generated the windstorm which sent Richard Branson's balloon whirling into the sky.

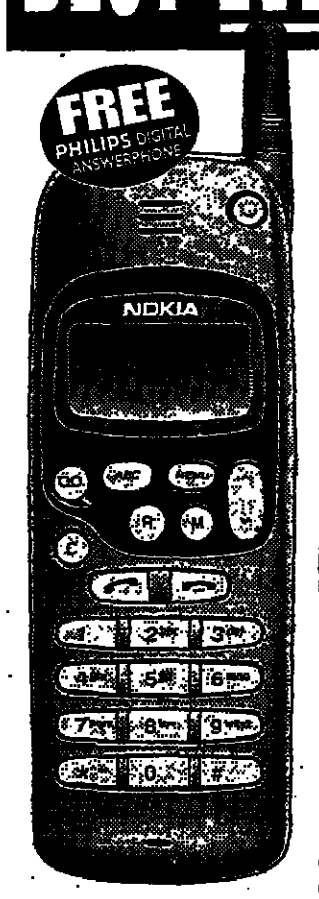
SBC Warburg Dillon Read emerged as the "friendly" party interested in bidding £500 million for Christie's International, the fine art auctioneer. The bid would be made on behalf of a consortium of wealthy private individuals. Discussions are at an early stage.

Some tidy Christmas handouts all round. Terry Green, chief executive of Debenhams, soon to be demerged from Burton Group, was toasting a £3 million Christmas payout, while Richard Oster, former long-serving head of Cookson Group, was in line for much the same — three months after boardroom disagreements cost him his job.

Retailers will be praying some of it finds its way into their tills.

JON ASHWORTH

BEST EVER DEAL!



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DIAL-a-PHONE

BAT hit as secret documents appear on Net

FROM OLIVER AUGUST
IN NEW YORK

BAT shares fell 4 per cent yesterday after an innocent-looking posting on the Internet.

The leading US tobacco companies agreed an immunity deal with government lawyers earlier this year to protect them against prosecution over health problems resulting from smoking. It was like a "get out of jail free" card in a billion-dollar monopoly game. But secret documents published on the Internet by a Congressman this week could yet prevent the companies from passing go.

The "get out of jail" card was not entirely free. The $368.5 billion (£220 billion) they agreed to pay over 25 years is, however, deemed to be a cheap insurance policy, given the litigious nature of US consumers coupled with the growing hatred of smoking in America.

The settlement would bar future class action cases against the tobacco industry, immunise it from punitive damages in lawsuits alleging past misconduct, and cap legal payouts at $5 billion a year.

The deal has yet to be approved by the US Congress — and that looks increasingly unlikely now. Congressmen made use of special subpoena powers to obtain and then publish 834 sensitive company documents. The documents reach back to the 1950s and cover subjects the companies strived for decades to keep out of the limelight. Internal memos and lawyers' letters reveal the handling of research dealing with cancer and underage smoking.

While the documents failed to turn up a "smoking gun", they are likely to incite new public outrage. Congress, which is facing elections next year, may delay the deal indefinitely. Henry Waxman, a Democratic representative from California, said: "This makes it more difficult for Congress to vote for immunity. It shows industry attorneys implementing a strategy of false science in order to mislead the American people."

The documents show that as recently as 1990 the industry was seeking $100,000 to study the "characteristics of children" and how they decide to smoke. Scientific information was commissioned on the understanding that it would be favourable to the industry. Sam Witt, an industry lawyer, is quoted as saying: "Maybe the approach ought to be advocacy first and science second."

The publishing of the 834 documents may only be the start for anti-tobacco campaigners. They are working to obtain millions of archive papers. But the tobacco lobby is fighting back, planning a multimillion-dollar advertising campaign in the US early next year.

Tour firms welcome report by MMC

BY PAUL DURMAN

THE leading travel companies warmly welcomed the Monopolies and Mergers Commission report that broadly clears the industry of abusing market power to the disadvantage of consumers.

In a falling stock market, shares in Airtours, which owns the Going Places travel agents, rose 17½p to £12.20. First Choice, the only major tour operator without a travel agency arm, rose 2p to 99p.

At one stage it was suggested that the MMC inquirycould lead to a break-up of vertically integrated groups such as Airtours, Thomson (which owns Lunn Poly) and Thomas Cook (owner of Sunworld).

But although the MMC report published yesterday identifies a number of abuses, it concludes: "We have not found there are sufficient grounds for condemning vertical integration as a whole." The MMC said it was, therefore, unjustified and inappropriate to consider drastic structural remedies.

Paul Brett, chairman of Thomson Travel Group, said: "The MMC felt that vertical integration was more likely than not to result in keener prices and wider choice."

Thomson yesterday paid 3.3 billion Swedish kroner (£260 million) to follow Airtours into the Scandinavian market by buying Fritidsresor. This Swedish company sold 1.3 million holidays this year.

Airtours and the other companies were generally dismissive of the Department of Trade and Industry's claim that holiday prices will fall because of the three changes it is demanding. It intends to prohibit linking the sale of travel insurance to holiday discounts, and to outlaw the "most favoured customer" agreements that tour operators impose on travel agents. It also wants travel agents to clearly identify their ownership relationship with tour companies within the same group.

Airtours said it did not expect the changes will materially affect its UK business. Tim Byrne, finance director of Airtours, said: "It has got to be one of the most competitive industries in the world. There can't be many industries where you can buy a better product 20 years later for a better price in real terms."

Commentary, page 25

New rules on credit transfers proposed

BY SUSAN EMMETT

BANKS transferring money across the European Union will be required to stick to a time frame or pay interest if proposals published in a Treasury consultation document yesterday are introduced.

The document sets out proposals for implementing an EC directive aiming to raise the standards of credit transfers of up to £30.000 between member states. The directive came into force in February and must be implemented no later than August 1999.

Cross-border transfers are becoming increasingly popular and Treasury proposals specify that unless transfers are credited within six working days or an agreed time scale, the bank responsible for sending the money will be charged interest. The bank will also be required to reimburse the customer making the transfer if the money fails to reach its destination.

Under the new proposals, all charges for the transfer will be paid by the person sending the money. The bank receiving the cash cannot deduct charges unless requested to do so. If double-charging does occur, the banks are required to reimburse the excess fees.

Helen Liddell, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, said: "Banks in all countries need to work to the same standards to satisfy their customers. Implementation of this directive will help us to achieve this."

Roy Amos, left, and Roger Akers have seen profits squeezed by the strong pound

Manders agrees £100m bid

BY MARTIN BARROW

MANDERS, the UK printing inks and coatings company, has succumbed to a £100 million takeover bid by Flint Ink Corporation, of America.

Yesterday Flint announced an agreed 250p a share cash offer for Manders. This has already attracted acceptances from institutional investors who speak for about 34 per cent of the ordinary shares. Flint is also offering 100p cash for each preference share. The ordinary offer represents a 65 per cent premium to Thursday's middle market price of 151½p. Manders directors have also accepted the offer in respect of their combined holding of 219,310 shares.

Roy Amos, Manders chairman, said: "We have known Flint for many years and we are enthusiastic about the combination, which will create a group with an enhanced ability to compete effectively on an international basis."

Manders, from which Roger Akers retires as chief executive at the end of the month, has seen its share price fall steadily since 1994, when it reached a peak of 403p.

Profits have fallen sharply, affected by competition from bigger US and European rivals. Manders this year issued a warning that profits would be hit by a margin squeeze caused by the strong pound.

Digital licences granted to BDB

BY RAYMOND SNODDY
MEDIA EDITOR

THE Independent Television Commission has cleared the way for the launch of digital terrestrial television in the UK by granting the main commercial digital licences to British Digital Broadcasting (BDB).

The decision to hand over the licences to BDB, a joint venture between the two largest ITV companies, Carlton and Granada, was taken even though final clearances have not yet been received from the Brussels Commission.

BDB plans to launch around 15 channels in the final quarter of next year — channels that can be received via ordinary television aerials, rather than satellite dishes or cable connections.

The ITC decided to grant the necessary licences after it received a letter from the European Commission suggesting that the conditions the ITC planned to impose on the venture were accetable and compatible with EC law.

The two main conditions are that BDB's programme supply agreement with BSkyB should last for five years rather than the seven originally envisaged. Sport and movie channels from BSkyB, in which News International, owner of *The Times*, has a 40 per cent stake, are seen as important to the viability of digital terrestrial television in the UK. The second condition would prevent directors from BSkyB sitting on the board of BDB and vice versa. BDB has no problem with either condition and believes that its business plans have emerged intact from the regulatory process.

Yesterday the European Commission said the EU had not yet cleared BDB. Officials said that Karel van Miert, the competition commissioner, has asked for the analysis of the case to continue. Both the ITC and BDB believe that the main outstanding issues have been resolved and that only a formal, final process is now needed.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Losses deepen at discount retailer

WEW, the discount retailer, suffered a loss before tax of £8.5 million in the year to August 2, a deterioration on the £3 million loss in the previous year. Sales fell to £90.4 million, from £116 million. Once again there is no dividend for the year. John Visser, the WEW chairman, said that the group had "a turbulent period over the last 12 months", but added that the new management team was taking steps to turn round the group's trading position and the board was "facing the future with confidence". WEW is now fully owned by Brown & Jackson whose shares fell 2p to 33p yesterday.

Mr Visser said the disappointing results reflected a particularly difficult spring/summer season in which the group embarked on an aggressive discount policy that had a downward effect on margins, and did not generate the additional sales volumes expected. The directors had since carried out a fundamental review of the pricing structure, which led to "a significant reduction in the prices of key lines for the forthcoming year". A fundamental review of the group's store portfolio led to a number of stores being identified as not compatible with business requirements and a provision of £3.7 million has been made in this year's accounts to cover the expected closure costs of these stores.

Airlines join forces

ALITALIA is to join the partnership between KLM Royal Dutch Airlines and Northwest Airlines Corp of the United States as part of the broader strategic alliance between the Italian and Dutch carriers. Alitalia and KLM said in a joint statement that their own partnership would become operational in November next year, when the enlarged airport at Malpensa in Italy is due to be opened. KLM Royal Dutch Airlines has stated that the forging of an alliance with an Asian airline will be one of its main priorities next year.

Casinos acquisition

HARRAH'S Entertainment is to acquire Showboat in a deal valued at $1.2 billion (£710 million) in cash and long-term debt. Harrah's has agreed to pay $519 million, or $30.75 a share, in cash, and assume $635 million of the company's debt. The deal creates the world's largest gaming company, with casino revenues estimated at about $2 billion and total revenues of about $2.5 billion, according to Harrah's. Showboat owns and operates casinos in Atlantic City and Las Vegas. Harrah's operates casinos in Las Vegas, Reno, Lake Tahoe, Laughlin and Atlantic City.

Great Portland buys

GREAT PORTLAND ESTATES, the property company, yesterday announced acquisitions worth a total of £75 million. The company is acquiring the private company that owns the Queens Arcade Shopping Centre in Cardiff for a nominal sum plus £54 million of debts. In addition Great Portland is to pay £20.4 million for a 312,500 sq ft warehouse development, nearing completion, at Severnside Distribution Park, Bristol. The finished building is to be let for 25 years to Matthew Clark at a rent of £1.55 million a year.

Dawnay, Day court win

DAWNAY, DAY & CO, the financial services group, has succeeded in a hearing at the High Court in its bid to prevent Cantor Fitzgerald, a competitor, from using the Dawnay, Day name for its European bond broking business. Dawnay, Day Securities was formed as a joint venture between the firm and three broker managers in 1992. The managers defected to Cantor earlier this year. Guy Naggar, the chairman of Dawnay, Day, said that if the ruling had allowed Cantor to use the name it would have caused "chaos" in the industry.

Eurotherm in £3.4m deal

EUROTHERM, the electronic equipment group based in Sussex, has acquired ASB, the German company, for DM10 million (£3.4 million). ASB designs and manufactures servo drives in the specialist market for high-performance, dynamic control of fast-response servo motors. Its operations and product range will be integrated within Eurotherm's drives division. Eurotherm said that ASB's sales in the 1997 year were about DM10 million. Shares in Eurotherm rose from 365p to 366½p yesterday.

Cleveland placing

CLEVELAND TRUST, the industrial property group that specialises in regional ports, has received applications for 47 per cent of the shares available in its £9.1 million placing and open offer. The new Cleveland ordinary shares not subscribed for by qualifying shareholders under the open offer have been placed with institutional investors by UBS and Sutherlands. Shares in Cleveland Trust remained unchanged at 106p yesterday. Cleveland offered almost 8.9 million shares at 102p a share.

Boxmore to expand

BOXMORE INTERNATIONAL, the specialist packaging group, plans to invest £16 million in the expansion of its Belfast healthcare packaging operation, creating 60 jobs and securing the employment of the company's current 180 staff. The investment will be backed by an Industrial Development Board support package of £2.9 million in the development of a packaging manufacturing facility for the supply of printed packaging to the pharmaceutical and healthcare sector. The development will involve building a new factory.

Lloyd's names

A report (December 13) incorrectly stated that High Court proceedings in which 627 Lloyd's names were involved were bankruptcy proceedings. They were not, but involved the court considering claims against the names.

Rivals unite for study into BBC

BY RAYMOND SNODDY, MEDIA EDITOR

A NUMBER of media groups concerned about the increasing commercial activities of the BBC have decided to commission an independent study on the issue. The aim is to make representations to the Government on what the companies believe are market distortions being caused by the BBC.

The decision to launch a campaign has been made by representatives of the ITV Association, the Commercial Radio Companies Association, Emap Consumer Magazines, National Magazines and BSkyB, the satellite broadcaster in which News International, owner of *The Times*, has a 40 per cent stake.

The groups decided that they shared a common view of the commercial activities of the BBC and plan to make representations to the Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee, which plans to start looking into the entire future of the audio visual industries in the UK after Christmas.

The problem is a complex one because successive governments have asked the BBC to expand its commercial interests as much as possible as a way of best exploiting assets created by licence-fee payments over the years. Politicians also want the BBC to supplement the licence fee and prevent it rising as much as it otherwise would.

The Corporation insists that accounting on its commercial activities is transparent and does not involve direct cross-subsidy from the licence fee.

Revenue in row over repayments

THE Inland Revenue yesterday conceded that it will have to repay tax plus interest to holders of certain offshore insurance bonds after its defeat in the House of Lords in July (Gavin Lumsden writes).

However, it was immediately embroiled in a row as the tax expert who successfully challenged its attempts to tax non-UK residents investing in personal portfolio bonds disputed the numbers involved.

A Revenue spokesman said compensation payments would focus on just "hundreds" of investors. However, Professor Peter Willoughby, the tax consultant who won his case against the Revenue, claimed 3,500 people were involved.

Broken Hill set for more disposals

BY GEORGE SIVELL

THE stream of disposals at Broken Hill, the Australian steel, mining and oil giant, looks set to continue after the company said sales of about one tenth of its business, assets of A$4 billion (£1.6 billion), were not out of the question.

The disposal news came as BHP reported a better than expected net profit of A$793 million for the six months to November 30, including A$99 million in one-off gains. The figure was almost the same as a year ago, but was well ahead of recent forecasts.

BHP's core minerals and petroleum assets again stood out, especially Australian and Irish Sea oil and gas fields, and Australian coal and iron ore. John Prescott, managing director, said BHP would build its future around these assets and was ready to sell non-core and poorly performing businesses.

BHP has total assets of about A$37 billion.

Mr Prescott said: "Anything that does not give us the performance that shareholders expect will be reviewed and will be put up for sale." On brokers' predictions that BHP would sell a further A$4 billion of assets, he said: "The magnitude is not out of court." About A$3 billion of assets have gone from the balance sheet in the past 18 months.

BHP shares ended the day down 14 cents at A$13.66. They have fallen in six months from A$20 because of weak profits, high costs, and low commodity prices.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

> "There was an air of personal poignancy: Sir David Alliance built Coats almost single-handedly through a remarkable series of agreed takeovers. Now he was dismantling his own handiwork. If anything signified the end of an industrial era, the age of the conglomerate, this was it . . ."
>
> *Business — The Sunday Times, tomorrow*

Results add to share price gloom for investors after profit warning from Reebok

Nike decline sees training shoes down at heel

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

Adidas back Prince Naseem

NEW YORK'S Times Square is usually filled with Broadway theatre goers but in December the throngs of tourist are crowding around a small shop between two glitzy cinemas.

The Foot Locker, arguably the sports retailer with the world's best sales spot, is more crowded than Wimbledon on a sunny day in July. Shoppers are being turned away at the door.

Sports brands including Nike and Adidas are having one of the best Christmas shopping seasons on record but analysts do not expect the companies to have a soft landing after Boxing Day. The industry is beset by sales worries that yesterday led to sharp share price declines in Europe and America. The manufacturers' worries are also likely to affect the performance of retail chains.

The sell-off of sports brands started with a Wall Street announcement early yesterday morning that Nike profits had fallen 20 per cent. Before the New York Stock Exchange had digested the news, Adidas shares in Germany fell 8 per cent. Bernd Janssen, of UBS in Frankfurt, said: "The Nike results are the reason."

Nike shares followed in hot pursuit, opening 10 per cent lower a few hours later. The share price dropped below $40, lower than at any point this year. Not even Nike's announcement that it will buy back $1 billion, or 7.7 per cent, of its shares could buoy the market.

Net income at the world's biggest trainer maker fell from $176 million to $141 million in the fourth quarter. Instead of a 20 per cent drop, analysts had expected a 10 per cent increase. Profit forecasts had been lowered from 15 per cent after a profit warning in September.

The profit fall was reflected in declining orders that will continue during early 1998, the company said. Philip Knight, the chairman, said: "For the balance of fiscal 1998, we see higher close-out sales on a worldwide basis continuing to negatively impact gross margins." Reebok, Nike's main US competitor, gave a profit warning last week that sent shares down 13 per cent. But Adidas may yet escape the worst of the industry slump despite yesterday's share price plunge. Mr Janssen said: "Adidas is still expecting strong growth in US orders. The drop is overdone because this is an industry problem."

Nike shares have declined 30 per cent this year on worries about the US market. The manufacturers now acknowledge that fewer teenagers regard trainers as fashion items and are increasingly turning to hiking boots made by companies such as Timberland.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.65	2.47
Austria Sch	21.80	20.14
Belgium Fr	64.20	59.24
Canada $	2.512	2.324
Cyprus Cyp£	0.910	0.838
Denmark Kr	11.85	10.96
Finland Mkk	9.49	8.74
France Fr	10.3	9.58
Germany Dm	3.12	2.87
Greece Dr	491	452
Hong Kong $	13.75	12.55
Iceland	131	111
Ireland Pt	1.19	1.10
Israel Shk	6.27	5.62
Italy Lira	3078	2839
Japan Yen	230.03	212.50
Malta	0.683	0.624
Netherlds Gld	3.522	3.227
New Zealand $	3.01	2.77
Norway Kr	12.72	11.78
Portugal Esc	314.53	292.50
S Africa Rd	8.80	7.84
Spain Pta	261.29	242.50
Sweden Kr	13.75	12.65
Switzerland Fr	2.54	2.33
Turkey Lira	342666	322788
USA $	1.774	1.631

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

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Making of a power monster

COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

The Monopolies and Mergers Commission's verdict on the latest foreign takeover in UK electricity was as inevitable as it is regrettable. Britain may be helping to create a monster by allowing Pacificorp's bid for The Energy Group.

The former Hanson division already married one of the industry's oddest couples: homely Eastern Electricity and America's Peabody Coal. The ambitious combined group is claimed to be the world's biggest private coalminer and coal generator. That worries environmentalists — and others.

The merger could favour a better deal for coal in the UK. After acquiring power stations from National Power and Powergen, Eastern labours at the face where coal meets gas. It could be open for remunerative deals.

Maybe not. Eastern is a key player in the electricity pool. Its bids determine prices about a third of the time. And, to the chagrin of big energy users, average pool and contract prices have been going up most of the time since the divestment to Eastern. Yet cost trends should have pushed prices down.

A foreign-owned company, which needs to maximise short-term cash-flow to service its parent's slagheap of debt, is surely more likely to opt for a penny-pinching cost strategy and a price strategy that maximises short-term returns in the pool. Nor is a group used to operating under legalistic American utility rules, likely to be a soft touch if the regulator tries to reform the pool without legislation.

Still less may Pacificorp play ball in backstairs political deals. That is fine under an energy policy based on promoting competition in production and supply, with regulation of the monopolies in between. Should the Government wish to change this, for instance to save a bit more of UK coal after next June, it would need to resort to French-style dealmaking.

Imagine what would happen if ministers wanted to nudge the industry in the direction of energy-saving. If one big player was not prepared to play, the others could not afford to.

What this amounts to, however, is that we do not want foreigners becoming any more powerful in such a basic regulated industry. The French are proud of such sentiments. In Britain they are not politically correct. No competition issue arose, so Margaret Beckett had to make her mark by referring the agreed deal on regulatory fears. But rules to ring-fence utility operations were tightened after Hanson bought Eastern, so the MMC could hardly demur.

Remember that the MMC was happy for PowerGen and National Power to take over regional electricity companies, but imposed enough conditions to allow a Tory minister to veto the deals. PowerGen will now be pushing to be allowed Eastern-style vertical integration. If TEG's management were independent minded, it would now play Pacificorp off against PowerGen and others to garner a better bid. The City is not betting on it.

Change as good as rest for travel firms

David Crossland, the founder and power behind Airtours, put it pretty succinctly yesterday. How many industries are actually offering better products more cheaply than they were 20 years ago? Telecommunications and computers spring to mind. But they have been spurred by technological advances. The aircraft that fly from East Midlands Airport to Alicante are not significantly different from the ones that flew in 1977. The hotels are not all that much better and the beaches no less sandy. Yet two weeks in June, which cost £400 a head then, cost £350 now. This seems all the more perverse given that industry is dominated by three main operators who would be expected to collude on prices, but clearly do not.

The fact that the MMC decided that there should be no major shake-up in the travel industry should not come as a suprise. After all — as they say in the States — if it ain't broke, don't fix it, though the MMC had a good go at trying to fix the electrical retailing business where only Dixons appears to make money. Indeed, for the conclusions that were actually reached, it seems like a waste of the competition experts' time.

Still, you could not have all those fine brains working for many months without one or two recommendations. One is sensible, the other a bit of a joke. Both refer to transparency, something that has often been lacking in an industry where even the small print on the brochure often does not make it clear who is taking you away on holiday.

The sensible recommendation is about insurance. Tour operators should make clearer the link between the cheap deals on offer and the insurance they sell, as most people have no idea of the cost of two weeks' travel insurance for South America. This should also be extended to mortgages, where so many cheap offers come with a requirement to take household insurance at inflated prices.

The other is on signage. The MMC says that it should be made clear that, for example, the Going Places travel agents are owned by Airtours or Lunn Poly by Thomson Travel. Once you enter the shops it is clear they are offering a single operator's products, not a full range.

However if the MMC does have its way there will be the amusing sight of Thomas Cook shops having to say they are part of the WestDeutches Landesbank group. Will that help to make the consumers any better informed?

The price of tradition

If you look at it one way, Hambros Bank is worth more than BZW and NatWest Markets combined. Of course these are not comparable businesses. Hambros has a substantial private banking operation which — despite the bad publicity suffered by Hambros corporate finance because of its involvement in Andrew Regan's abortive bid for Co-operative Wholesale — remains a strong franchise, particularly in the Channel Islands. It also can continue operating on a sensible scale without heavy investment.

But who would believe that Hambros could have sold its "value impaired" merchant bank for a premium to its net asset value, particularly in the current market. The price Hambros obtained is on a par with the amount Swiss Bank Corporation spent on SG Warburg and makes the price Kleinwort Benson shareholders persuaded Dresdner Bank to cough up — which was nearly twice net assets — look particularly good.

The break up of the rest, predicted here yesterday, will return as much as £700 million to shareholders. This is made up of the £300 million SocGen is paying, the Hambro Countrywide and Insurance Services stakes, worth £230 million, the £130 million investment portfolio, the 44 per cent of Guinness Flight Hambro, which could easily command £80 million in a sale, and £44 million of liabilities. Even allowing for how much the tax man grabs, the £460 million valuation the market gives to Hambros looks churlish.

Chunnel vision

AT the last time of looking, hell had not frozen over. Yet the dispute between TML, the builders of the Channel Tunnel, and Eurotunnel has been settled. A deal has also been struck to extend Eurotunnel's operting licence by 34 years. The group is sound financially, the merger of P&O and Stena has avoided a price war next summer and the fast link to Folkestone may actually be built on time. Something has to go wrong soon.

Chemical groups revamp sector in £175m deals

By Carl Mortished

THE restructuring of Europe's chemicals industry gathered pace yesterday with a flurry of deals totalling £175 million as players sought to consolidate their position in their chosen markets.

BTP, the chemicals group, has sold Mydrin, its adhesive and textiles coatings division, to Bostik, a UK subsidiary of Total, the French oil and chemicals group, for £86 million. Simultaneously, Total is selling on Myrdin's German operations to National Starch and Chemical, an ICI subsidiary, for £22 million. In turn, ICI is selling a chemical intermediates business to Air Products for £67 million.

Mydrin makes solvent-based glues used in packaging, construction, footwear and electronics. It is also a leading producer of fire-retardant coatings for textiles.

The deal completes a year of rapid change for BTP. The chemicals group has spent almost £80 million buying new businesses including leather and speciality chemicals operations from Yorkshire Group and PCR, an American fine chemicals business. Steve Hannam, BTP's chief executive, said: "This is a very significant step in our strategy of refocusing BTP on higher added value speciality and fine chemicals."

Mydrin, which has operations in the UK, Germany, France, Italy and the US, made profits of £6.4 million in the year to March from operating assets worth £43.5 million.

The disposal will give a £42 million boost to net assets but no exceptional profit or loss.

Big changes: Charles Miller Smith, ICI's chief executive

The proceeds will enable BTP to reduce net debt to £10 million, leaving the group with gearing of just 6 per cent. Mr Hannam said: "The additional cash resources and borrowing capacity available to us as a result of this sale will enable us to invest in fine chemicals growth and seek further acquisitions."

ICI said that its subsidiary National Starch would gain sales of £27 million with the purchase of Mydrin's German adhesives business, strengthening its position in the woodworking and paper-converting sectors in Germany.

□ ICI, where Charles Miller Smith is chief executive, has sold its methylamines and derivatives business to Air Products for £67 million. The business has an estimated annual turnover of £53 million. Air Products will take on 125 employees from ICI's Teesside operations plus a plant site and product lines.

Tempus, page 27

Investment trust sector suffers loss of £2.7bn of funds

By Gavin Lumsden

THE amount of money that has left the investment trust sector in the past year leapt to £2.7 billion yesterday as US arbitrageurs succeeded in dealing deathblows to two international funds.

The £326 million Kleinwort Overseas Investment Trust (KOIT) announced it would turn itself into a unit trust after shareholders, led by Sierra Trading and supported by Standard Life, rejected reconstruction proposals from the trust's board that would have enabled them to cash in 60 per cent of their stake.

This is the second trust Kleinwort Benson has lost recently. Last year the £500 million Kleinwort Benson European Privatisation Trust was unitised after a furious bidding war between fund managers.

Meanwhile, shareholders in the Overseas Investment Trust, a £190 million fund managed by Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, voted against continuing the company. The trust has performed poorly recently and like KOIT has seen its shares fall to wide discount to its net asset value. Morgan Grenfell's humiliation was deepened when shareholder rebels, led by the Liverpool Limited Partnership and the Westgate International Limited Partnership, two US arbitrageurs, rejected the re-election of one of their directors, James Fox, to the trust's board. The trust is now likely to be turned into a unit trust, enabling investors to take cash or continue their investment.

Arbitrageurs make money by buying large stakes in undervalued trusts and then forcing the boards to take action to improve returns for shareholders, usually in the form of early termination. US companies, with no ties to the UK investment world, are frequent players in the action. Unlike UK institutional investors they are prepared to make enemies of the big City firms that managed investment trusts. They are now likely to turn their attention to other international investment trusts, such as Dunedin Worldwide and Anglo Overseas, which is also managed by DMG.

Although the shares of most investment trusts suffer wide discounts, international trusts are particluarly vulnerable because they are no longer in demand by institutional investors.

Lonrho bid fears surface after resignation at JCI

By Jason Nissé

LONRHO'S attempts to agree a £450 million deal to take over JCI, the South African mining group, were thrown into doubt yesterday after Mzi Khumalo resigned as JCI's executive chairman.

Mr Khumalo, a former freedom fighter and prisoner on Robben Island, has been a strong proponent of the deal to merge with Lonrho and had been promised a seat on the conglomerate's board if Lonrho's bid was successful.

After a stormy board meeting in Johannesberg yesterday morning, Mr Khumalo said he was stepping down as executive chairman of JCI, though he will continue in a non-executive role. His resignation was prompted by a row over JCI's potential 250 million rand (£31 million) investment in 20 per cent of Southern Mining, a heavy metal exploration company. Other directors had accused Mr Khumalo of forcing through the acquisiton without a full board meeting. The deal, which would have given Mr Khumalo a personal profit of 35 million rand, has now been reversed.

The row also brought to the surface tensions between Mr Khumalo and Brett Kebble, the JCI director in charge of its gold mining operations. JCI has agreed to sell Mr Kebble some of its gold assets and swap the rest with Anglo American, the South African conglomerate which owns 26 per cent of Lonrho's shares.

The European Community recently approved the transfer of the Lonrho stake from Anglo to JCI. However, it needs to be approved by shareholders and there is speculation that other JCI shareholders — led by Investec, the investment bank — might block the Anglo deal.

If the JCI deal falls through, it will put a spanner in the works of the restructuring of Lonrho being masterminded by Sir John Craven, its chairman. This received a boost this week when Lonrho sold its Dutton-Forshaw motor dealerships chain to a management team for £113 million.

Craven: restructuring JCI

Spanish to buy UDO for £46m

GRUPO PICKING PACK, the Spanish stationer, has agreed to pay £46 million in a 200p-a-share cash bid for UDO, the office supplies and reprographics group. Shares in UDO rose 2½p to 185p in response.

GPP has a chain of franchised and other stores selling stationery and retail reprographic services. It also has a warehousing division and a logistics division. GPP has recently started the development of a network of megastores.

Carlo U. Bonomi, president of GPP, said: "The acquisition of UDO represents the first step towards GPP becoming a pan-European provider of reprographic services and office supplies."

UDO made £6.2 million before tax in the year to July 31 on sales of £58.3 million and had net assets at the end of July of £28.1 million.

Laura Ashley agrees loan

By Paul Durman

LAURA ASHLEY, the troubled fashion retailer that had been in breach of its loan agreements, has placed its finances on a firmer footing by agreeing a new £70 million borrowing facility with its banks (See Commentary, this page).

The company has also appointed Richard Pennycook, 33, finance director of JD Wetherspoon, to replace James Walsh as its finance director.

Laura Ashley fell foul of its banking covenants when it became clear that it would this year make a loss estimated at £15 million. Technically, this would have allowed its six banks to call in their loans.

In return for fees from Laura Ashley, the banks have agreed to provide a £70 million committed facility until April 1999. The syndicate consists of the Bank of Nova Scosia, Tokyo Mitsubishi, Dai-Ichi Kangyo, Midland Bank, Sakura Bank and Standard Chartered. The company recently told analysts that it had debts of about £40 million, but this is likely to have fallen in the run-up to Christmas.

Mr Pennycook joined Wetherspoon as finance director two years ago, having previously worked for Allders. His retailing experience is intended to complement the turnround skills of David Hoare, who last month replaced Ann Iverson as Laura Ashley's chief executive.

Mr Hoare has been using Olivier Roux, best-known as finance director of Guinness in the Ernest Saunders era, and Richard Grogan to advise on dealing with Laura Ashley's problems in the US.

Fresh air for Dale at Creightons

By George Sivell

BARRY DALE, the deposed chief executive of Littlewoods, has emerged at the helm of Creightons, the troubled toiletries and fragrances group.

Shares of Creightons, which have fallen sharply over the past two years, bounced from 20p to 35½p yesterday after it was announced that Mr Dale had been appointed executive chairman.

He succeeds John Carr, the executive responsible for the rescue and restructuring of Creightons, who has has resigned. The company said he has been paid £240,000 in connection with the early termination of his consultancy contract.

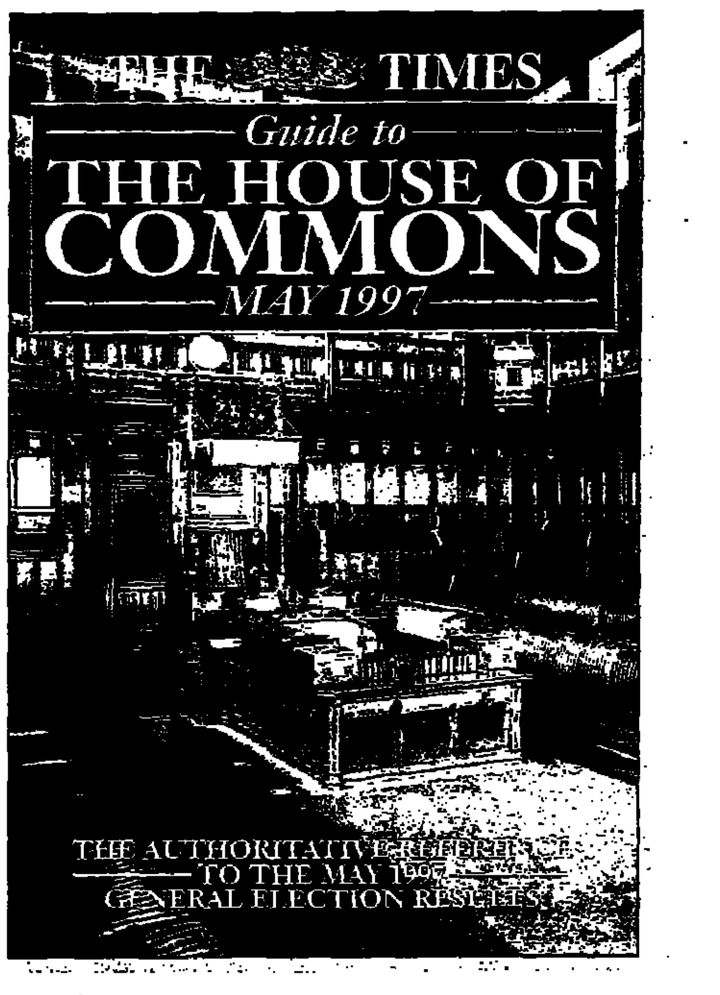
Mr Carr and his family have sold their entire shareholdings, amounting to 608,696 shares, to Mr Dale for almost £250,000, or 41.07p a share.

Creightons said that Mr Dale will concentrate on finding a substantial acquisition for the group. Mr Dale is currently a non-executive director of Greenalls and Triplex Lloyd, which this week accepted a bid from Doncasters, the engineering group.

The day-to-day operational management of Creightons will remain in the hands of Michael Gubbins, the managing director, and his team of eight senior managers, each of whom have been offered 20,000 share options in the company under the approved share option scheme.

At the time of the fundraising in December 1996 Creightons said that in the medium term, it believed that the prospects for the group would be driven by the identification and completion of acquisition opportunities and this remains the case.

Creightons said: "Mr Dale will concentrate on finding a substantial acquisition for the company, which will propel Creightons to the next stage of its development."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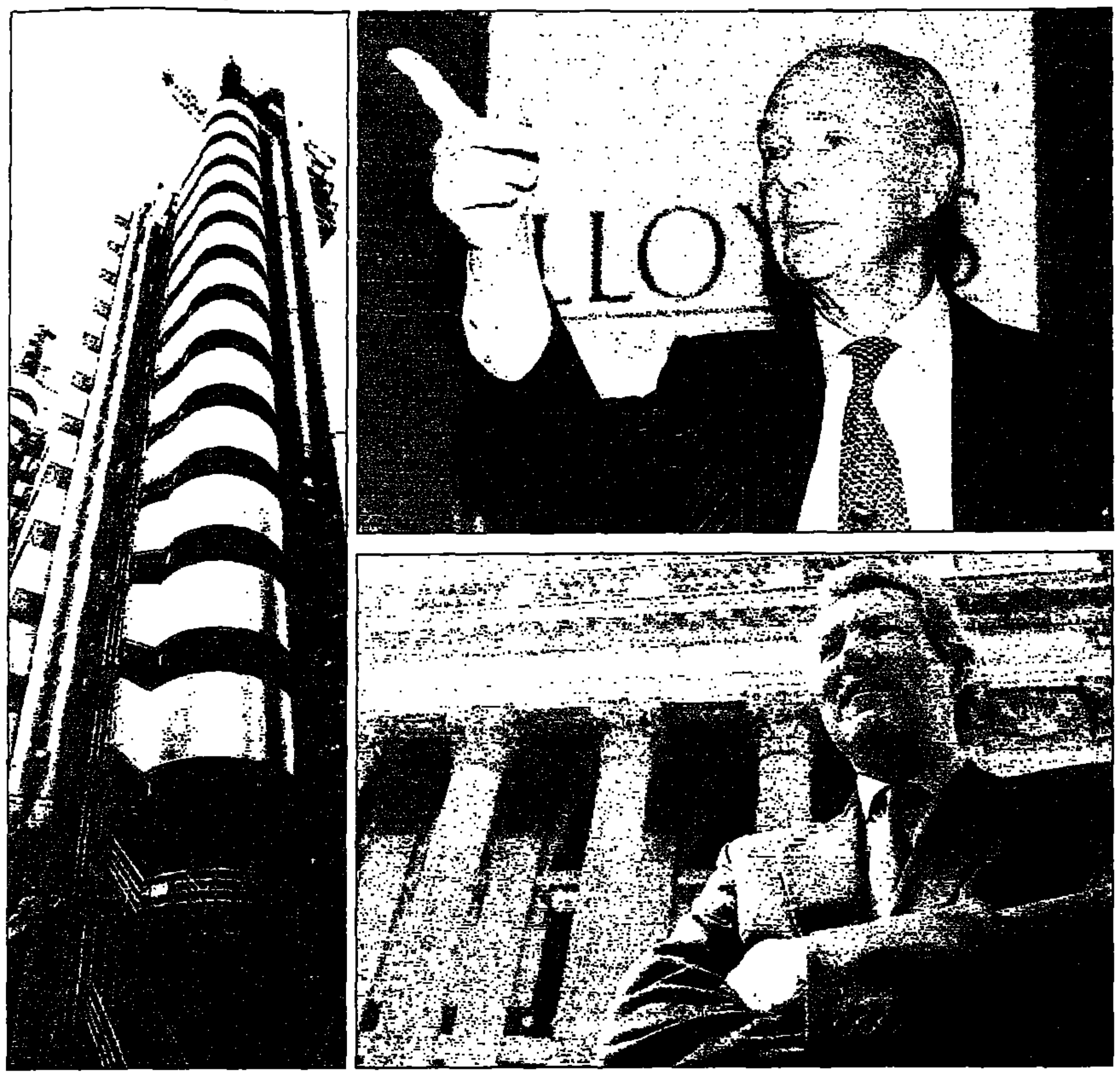
All change at Lloyd's as the old guard bows out

Adam Jones

assesses the challenges facing the market's new chairman



Lloyd's was steered through its reconstruction by Sir David Rowland, top. Broker Max Taylor will succeed him

The peaceful handover of power that is to take place in the boardroom of Lloyd's of London at the end of this month should be the gesture that triumphantly draws a line under the society's former troubles.

The urbane and unflappable Sir David Rowland will pass the chairmanship to Max Taylor, an executive director of Willis Corroon, the insurance broker, knowing that under his stewardship, and with the aid of behind-the-scenes heavyweights such as Charles Roxburgh, of McKinsey, the management consultants, and Barry O'Brien, of Freshfields, the solicitors, the insurance market was steered through the painful reconstruction made necessary by more than £8 billion of losses.

Yet the success of the Lloyd's rescue, and the need to modernise the market to keep pace with international competition, has created new tensions, rifts that are likely to deepen in the coming year as Sir David begins his new job as President of Templeton College at Oxford University.

The society's newest members, the companies and investment vehicles brought in as a fresh source of capital in 1994, believe that the change of chairman should be mirrored by a change in the pecking order of investors.

These providers of "corporate capital" have started from nothing to become, in 1998, the largest providers of money to underwriting syndicates, displacing the wealthy individuals who have traditionally backed the market. Corporates are now providing 60 per cent of the backing, up from 44 per cent in 1997.

The composition of the ruling council body is yet to mirror this change and it is a source of discontent. The corporate investors also want the abolition of the annual joint venture, where investors commit themselves to underwriting one year at a time rather than continuously, a process the corporates regard as an expensive liability in spite of the opposing claim that it is a uniquely flexible system, allowing the market to easily expand or contract in good and bad times.

Sir David has been diplomatic on this dispute, although his decision to switch from traditional, unlimited-liability underwriting to limited liability was a nod in the direction of change.

A popular attitude in the corridors of Lime Street is to let market forces do their job without any central interference. If the market shifts to "continuous capital", making it in effect a coalition of small insurance companies, then so be it.

The calls for restructuring from corporate capital may be muted by upheavals in their own backyard, however. The quoted funds that act as a channel for investors wanting Lloyd's exposure are coming under tremendous pressure, mainly from pessimistic stock market valuations. They are being pushed to consolidate, buy the underwriting agencies they supply with capital and then do the bulk of their underwriting in-house. Essentially, they are trying to become insurance companies, giving investors a recognisable management story to focus on, rather than being the Lloyd's equivalent of a faceless fund manager.

Mr Taylor will be very keen not to get bogged down in internal politics. His team, which includes Ron Sandler, the chief executive, is raring to get away from Lloyd's historic obsession with its capital base. The mantra of "customer focus" is repeated frequently.

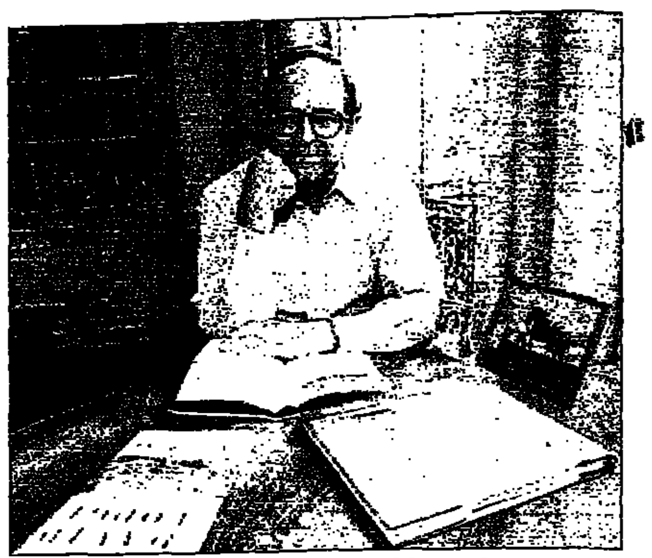
One of the most significant advances on this front in 1997 was the award of a credit rating for the first time, a big selling point overseas. Mr Taylor's appointment, which angered some members who wanted a better-known external candidate, has been justified in this context. Lloyd's, aware of competition from Bermuda and elsewhere, needs someone to go out and sell it to potential customers, who better to do that than a broker?

It is a valid argument, and Mr Taylor is widely held to be a charismatic man, although it is often forgotten that Sir David had a broking background too, first with Matthews Wrightson, latterly as chairman of Sedgwick.

Amid all the excitement of change, it is vital to bear in mind that underwriting in 1998 is likely to remain difficult. Syndicate Underwriting Research Ltd (SURL) believes that a miserly 2.9 per cent profit is achievable for the market next year.

Mark Hewlett, managing director of SURL, said: "The recent benign loss experience has led to appalling competition, woefully reduced rates and increasingly liberal policy terms and conditions. Although we predict a profit for the market for 1998, the reality is that our syndicate forecasts show a lot of red ink."

Man from the Pru must rethink his policy to turn tide



Sir Peter Davis is facing perhaps his toughest test yet

Sir Peter Davis has had probably the worst week of his high-profile business career. His company, the largest life insurer in the land, was on Tuesday the target of the most critical attack ever launched by a financial watchdog. Instead of looking forward to his 56th birthday next Tuesday, the Prudential Corporation's chief executive has been left pondering headlines such as "Prudential: a company out of control".

Sir Peter's early birthday present from Howard Davies at the newly formed Financial Services Authority (FSA) was a savage report, calling into question the whole management ethos of the Prudential. It spoke of "a deep-seated and longstanding failure in management" and a "cultural disposition against compliance, that filtered through Prudential Assurance's branch offices, their managers and advisers".

A few weeks earlier Helen Liddell, the Economic Secretary to the Treasury, singled out the Pru for its slowness in paying compensation to victims of pensions mis-selling.

Yet Sir Peter believes he may be able to see out the storm. A persuasive and arrogant man, who uses his height and weight to dominate those who meet him, he has been putting out the message that the problems were the fault of Jim Sutcliffe, who left as head of the Pru in the UK in September after 19 years with the company; or Mick Newmarch, Sir Peter's predecessor and another career man from the Pru who left under a cloud three years ago.

Sir Peter's version of events has him struggling to get to grips with a culture which had a contempt for compliance — right down to Newmarch's insistence that the Personal Investment Authority (PIA) was not up to regulating the Pru and it would only answer to the Securities and Investments Board (SIB), the predecessor of the FSA.

When Sir Peter took over from Newmarch in May 1995 he thought he could guide the Pru to stability. He saw his role akin to how he ran Reed International, the publisher, where he guided strategy and did deals without actually having to get his hands dirty running businesses. Sir Peter left the day-to-day running of the £120 billion organisation to those who knew about running financial services businesses.

He freely admits he has no experience in the pensions industry. His career started with ten years at J Sainsbury, where he was in charge of marketing. He then joined Reed International, guiding a massive shake-up which saw disposal of the printing arm and the *Daily Mirror* and the purchases of Octopus books and the Lexis-Nexis electronic publishing business. Ultimately he masterminded the merger of Reed with Elsevier of The Netherlands. Less than two years after the merger, Sir Peter fell out with the Dutch and resigned, picking up a £1.5 million payoff.

Before he was brought in at the Pru, Sir Peter was essentially unemployed, although he had been working on a number of small projects. His appointment had much to do with his friendship with Derek Higgs, a merchant banker who advised both Reed and the Pru. Shortly after joining, Sir Peter hired Higgs to head Prudential Portfolio Managers, the Pru operation that is Britain's largest and most influential fund manager.

Once at the Pru, Sir Peter began work on a new strategy based on widening its distribution channels and reducing its reliance on the 5,000-strong direct salesforce, which now provides 50 per cent of the Pru's business. He was knighted under the last Government, yet was close enough to Labour to be appointed to head the Government's Welfare to Work scheme. Taking his customary high profile, he personally became the guardian angel of the country's savings in the Pru's TV advertising campaign.

IN THE HOT SEAT

CV: SIR PETER DAVIS

Born: 1941.
1976: J Sainsbury.
1986 to 1994: Chief executive, then chairman of Reed International.
1991: Non-executive director of Boots.
1995: The Prudential.
1997: Chairman Business in the Community and Welfare to Work scheme.

Meanwhile, Sir Peter had revealed the sharpness of his deal-making skills by defeating Abbey National in the bid for Scottish Amicable. The deal gave Prudential increased distribution through independent financial advisers, where ScotAm has a strong brand. The City believed that Prudential paid a good price for the mutual company, where value is notoriously difficult to measure. Sir Peter also became involved in talks about a merger with NatWest. The talks floundered, apparently on the division of roles in the new group, but then leaked out into the market, putting pressure on NatWest to return to the negotiating table.

However, while Sir Peter was involved with the cut and thrust of takeovers, the regulator was having a close look at the corporate culture that had allowed unscrupulous salesmen to sell unsuitable pensions to thousands, including many nurses and miners.

It found that the Pru was still drenched in a culture of non-compliance. It discovered that the company had mis-sold policies other than pensions, that it was more interested in saving money than following compliance procedures. In one particularly damning paragraph, the FSA said the Pru's conduct had fallen substantially below the standards that the public had a right to expect from a regulated firm.

Sir Peter is now facing a dangerous few months. He has taken comfort that the City has shrugged off the Pru's regulatory problems — marking the shares up 50 per cent in the year — and now needs to persuade the regulators and the Government that the Pru is en route to mending its ways. Much of the future growth in financial services companies will be determined by the Government's plans for the welfare state, especially pensions. The Government has made it clear that those companies that are seen to fall below certain regulatory standards will simply not be able to offer the products that will be inevitably introduced to replace the welfare state.

Sir Peter needs all his resources of charm, all his friends in the City and all his skills as a deal-maker to keep the Pru in poll position in the British financial services market. Yet the trait that Sir Peter will most need to show is his resource of resilience, illustrated by his ability to return to centre stage after his departure from Reed. The man from the Pru must now prove he is made of Teflon.

CAROLINE MERRELL

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Seven nights from only £599

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Leisure Direction in association with Ski France International is offering *Times* readers an exclusive selection of ski holidays to celebrate the launch of the new direct high-speed rail links to the Alps.

Travel from Waterloo or Ashford on Eurostar non-stop to the French Alps and stay in the superb resort of Les Arcs. Renowned for great door-to-door skiing, a lively atmosphere and superb facilities. Les Arcs is set in a massive ski area with 150km of piste, including the Varet Glacier. Ideal for all levels of skiing, with 13 green beginners slopes, 44 easy blue runs, 37 intermediate red runs, and 18 testing black runs, including the 16km Aiguille Rouge, moguls and superb off-piste for advanced skiers. Village level 1800m; highest point 3226m.

MAEVA LATITUDES HOTEL DU GOLF
The three-star Hotel du Golf, based in Arc 1800 is approximately 30 minutes from the Eurostar station and centrally located within the resort at the foot of the pistes. Facilities include four restaurants, a bar, sauna and fitness room. All rooms have private shower or bath, television, minibar and hair dryers.

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR SPECIAL
There is no better way to spend Christmas or New Year than holidaying in the Alps. Readers who choose to book these dates will have a special Christmas meal and New Year's celebration arranged by the Hotel du Golf, included in the price on the relevant dates.

DATES AND PRICES PER ADULT		
DEPARTURE DATE	NIGHTS	PRICE
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Isa U-turn?

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

SO FAREWELL the Individual Savings Account. I have it on good authority that Gordon Brown and his much-maligned sidekick, Geoffrey Robinson, are ready for another possible U-turn on the new tax-free product. First it was the £50,000 limit on investments. Now it is the name.

As we have pointed out on these pages, Isa has a number of interesting meanings — mostly approximating to God. Now that this has been brought to Brown's attention, he has decreed that the Isa name may have to go. There are, after all, enough people in the Treasury who think they are God.

Winning ad

READERS will remember fondly the award-winning Silk Cut advertisement, featured on these pages on Monday, that accompanied a profile of BAT Industries. But as crowds of smokers have been rushing to tell me, BAT might sell Silk Cut worldwide, but in the UK, Ireland and the European Free Trade Area the cigarettes are sold by Gallahers. So the award-winning ad is a Gallahers ad.

Right pitch

ONE-hundred-and-fifty-eight years of tradition may have been ended with the sale of Hambros Bank to Société Générale, but at least the croquet pitch is being preserved. It is a little known fact that Hambros staff can play croquet on the roof on its head office, overlooking the Tower of London.

When asked whether he would keep the croquet pitch, Patrick Pagni, the head of SocGen in London, reacted with Gallic shock. "Cricket pitch, we have a cricket pitch?" When it was pointed out that actually it was a croquet pitch, he brightened up. "Oh we have a croquet pitch outside our old offices."

Francophile

Keswick: consultancy role

HAMBROS chairman, Sir Chips Keswick, might be saddened by selling the bank he has worked at for more than 32 years, but he is being kept on as a consultant by SocGen. This will bring back happy memories for the Francophile banker, who studied at Aix-en-Provence University and played rugby as a second row forward for Marseilles. A legacy of this is an injury that makes Sir Chips limp, even to this day.

For those who are wondering, Sir Chips's name is a shortening of Sir Chippendale. This name was given to him because he was conceived on a Chippendale bed.

☐ SO IT is goodbye to the wonderfully named Contra-Cyclical Investment Trust. The name must have seemed a great idea in 1991 when Rea Brothers, the merchant banker, launched the fund into the teeth of a recession. "Invest with us because we will go up while the market is down," the name seemed to say. However, the five-year bull market has rather gone against this concept — indeed the Contra-Cyclical name implied "we will lose money for you while everyone else is laughing all the way to the bank". So the fund has been renamed Finsbury Income and Growth Investment Trust. But as any investment expert will explain — you either invest for growth or income. High-yielding companies are often the ones with the slowest growth. So the new name makes absolutely no sense at all.

Bitter brew

IT IS a sad indictment of modern society that Anheuser-Busch, the giant American brewer, has persuaded a Danish court, of all things, that it has the rights to the brand name Budweiser — not Budejovicky Budvàr, the Czech brewers. After all, the Czechs invented Budweiser, being the German name for the original Czech brewery. Anheuser-Busch views this victory as evening the scores after Budejovicky Budvar won a case against it in Switzerland.

Meanwhile, other Czech brewers have successfully gained injunctions against Holsten and — of all people — Marks & Spencer for using the Pils brand name. For the record, beer in the Czech Republic sells for as little as 15p a pint and is lovely.

JASON NISSÉ

هكذا من الأصل

هكذا من الإهمال

STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Stock Market Writer of the Year

Caution of retailers hits prices in stores sector

Sir Stanley Kalms saw Dixons shares fall 8p to 596p

THE traditional run-up to Christmas appears to have been a distressing time for many retailers. The usual jangling of tills has been muffled by the five interest rate rises implemented by Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, since May, forcing consumers to concentrate any spare cash on keeping the mortgage paid.

This week's stronger than expected increase in the official retail sales contradicted dull figures from the British Retail Consortium showing sales growth in the high street slowing to its lowest level since April last year.

The retailers themselves have also been telling cautious tales about trading, with the likes of **Kingfisher**, down 12p at 843p, saying that it was finding the going difficult. This admission has been putting the stores sector under increasing pressure.

Storehouse was a casualty, falling 5p to 230½p, as SBC Warburg Dillon Read downgraded its profit forecast for the current year by £5 million to £125 million. Despite this it still likes the shares and has been telling clients to "add" to their holdings.

Société Générale Strauss Turnbull, the broker, has also taken a red pencil to its profit forecast for **Dixons**, which is headed by Sir Stanley Kalms, blaming a lacklustre sales performance. It has lopped £10 million off its original £240 million. The shares fell 8p to 596p.

Other stores groups to close easier included **Harvey Nichols**, down 4½p at 188p, **Boots**, 10p at 881p, **French Connection**, 7½p at 382½p, **Hamleys**, 12p at 267½p, **JJB Sports**, 5½p at 658½p, and **Next**, 20p at 674p. However, **Marks & Spencer** rallied 9p to 583p. Credit Lyonnais Laing, the broker, has been telling clients the shares have fallen too far.

Overnight losses in New York were matched by those in Tokyo after the news that Toshoku, the food supplier, had filed for bankruptcy. This had investors racing for cover at the start of trading in London. Matters were made worse for traders by the expiry of the December options and financial futures. The "double witching" hour was the first real test for the Sets computerised trading system, which matches buyer with seller among the top 100 companies. It appears to have come through the ordeal unscathed without any of the market manipulation that some officials had feared.

But with the London market having overcome the expiry deadline, it was then knocked for six by fresh falls in New York where the Dow Jones industrial average plunged almost 270 points at one stage.

Despite this, the FTSE 100 index managed to close above its worst of the day finishing 148.1 down at 5,020.2 having dipped below the 5,000 level briefly to touch a low for the day of 4,985.7. It stretched the fall on the week to 25 points. A total of 862 million shares had changed hands by the close.

The overnight losses in Asia took their toll of the usual companies with exposure to the region. **HSBC** dropped 45p to £15.23, **Standard Chartered** 32p to 655p, **Cable & Wireless** 7p to 535p, and **Inchcape** 9p to 158½p.

The Energy Group, owner of Eastern Electricity, stood out with a jump of 10p at 665p after the Government finally gave the green light for Pacificorp, the US energy group, to proceed with its £5.9 billion offer, which includes £2.2 billion of debt. But the deal, which has since lapsed becuase of its referral to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, cannot proceed until both sides get approval from the US authorities.

Now keep an eye on **Southern Electric**, 2p easier at 492p, which is still regarded as a takeover target. A previous bid by **National Power**, 13p down at 585p, was blocked back in 1995.

One of the best performances of the day was reserved for **Manders**, which soared 93½p to 245p on the news of an agreed £100 million bid from Flint Ink, the US group. The terms value the printing inks group at 245p.

It is the third such bid in the specialist chemicals sector during the past month. **Allied Colloids**, 1p lighter at 164p, is currently fighting off a bid from Hercules, another American group, while **Holliday Chemicals**, steady at 229p, has accepted terms from **Yule Catto**, unchanged at 288½p.

Dragon Oil has struck it rich. Once again it has discovered gas resources off the coast of Thailand. The shares closed 4½p higher at 70p having come up from a low of 21p this year.

Plans for a restructuring and boardroom reshuffle were good news for **Creightons**, up 15½p at 35½p. The household products group has appointed Barry Dale as chairman to target suitable acquisitions.

The market had to contend with a clutch of profit warnings. **Peterhead Group** nursed a fall of 6p at 31½p. It says earnings per share will fall "substantially short of market forecasts". The group blamed significant losses at its International Cranes division which is to be sold or closed.

There was also a setback for **American Port Services**, down 24p at 134½p, after warning that profits for the year to December will fall below expectations. The group which owns and operates airport and seaport services blamed currency turmoil in the Far East. **Time Products** was another casualty, tumbling 32½p to 171p after revealing that trading at its luxury watch division had been below expectations.

☐ **GILT EDGED:** The turmoil on world equity markets encouraged investors to switch into the comparative safety of the bond markets where the high yields are proving attractive.

In the futures pit, the March series of the long gilt stayed at £121¹/₈ in moderate trading.

In longs Treasury 8 per cent 2021 climbed £¹⁷/₃₂ to £121³/₄, while among shorter-dated issues, Treasury 7 per cent 2002 was seven ticks better at £102.

☐ **NEW YORK:** The broad-based sale of US shares continued, with technology and blue-chip companies particularly affected. The Dow Jones industrial average was down 177.65 to 7,668.85 at midday.

Old English Pubs rose 24½p to 293½p. It has apparently become *a target for Jayesh Manek, the pharmacist from Middlesex who* made a name for himself this year as an investment pundit. He has since launched his own unit trust with the backing of Sir John Templeton, the financier, and Stanislas Yassukovich, the broker.

MOVERS OF THE WEEK

	Current price	Week's change	
Oasis Stores	122½p	-63½p	Profits warning
Christie's International	*265p*	*-35p*	*Awaiting bid developments*
Shield Diagnostics	702½p	-45p	Licensing deal delay
Nycomed Amersham	£22.50	+132½p	Joins FTSE 250
Marks & Spencer	583p	-17p	Talk of bearish broker
Scruttons	310p	+40p	Bid approach
Country Casuals	121p	+28½p	Fresh bid approach
Creightons	*35½p*	*+15½p*	*Restructuring planned*
Manders	245p	+94p	Agreed bid Flint Ink

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):

Dow Jones	7668.85 (-177.65)
S&P Composite	935.05 (-20.25)

Tokyo:

Nikkei Average	15314.89 (-340.75)

Hong Kong:

Hang Seng	10405.81 (-348.30)

Amsterdam:

AEX Index	*879.49 (-28.04)*

Sydney:

AO	2528.10 (-35.00)

Frankfurt:

DAX	4084.74 (-81.49)

Singapore:

Straits	1572.61 (-18.80)

Brussels:

General	14386.77 (+79.62)

Paris:

CAC-40	2822.90 (-71.60)

Zurich:

SKA Gen	1225.30 (-19.90)

London:

FT 30	3228.7 (-59.5)
FTSE 100	5020.2 (-148.1)
FTSE 250	4705.1 (-30.7)
FTSE 350	2416.6 (-60.8)
FTSE Eurotrack 100	2639.68 (-31.06)
FTSE All-Share	*2361.28 (-56.00)*
FTSE Non Financials	2371.75 (-46.46)
FTSE Fixed Interest	134.10 (+0.52)
FTSE Govt Secs	101.81 (+0.36)
Bargains	55823
SEAQ Volume	869.3m
US$	1.6690 (+0.0083)
German Mark	2.9518 (+0.0084)
Exchange Index	104.5 (+0.4)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
£:ECU	1.4970
£:SDR	1.2210
RPI	159.6 Nov (3.7%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX	158.0 Nov (2.6%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

Autologic	267½	...
BCO Technologies	166½	+ 8
Boustead	19½	- 1
Bovis Homes	193½	...
Comland Comm	54	...
Energis (290)	262½	- 4
Flmg Geared Units	179	...
General Inds	35	- ½
Gooch & Housego	133½	...
Manchester & Lon	270	...
Marchpole	115	- 1½
Market Link Publ	55	...
Northern Rcrtmnt	138½	...
Property Asset	7	...
Range Cooker	6¼	+ ¼
Rapid Technology	94½	...
Razorback Vehicles	102½	...
SCS Upholstery	*111½*	...
Saatchi & Saatchi	113	...
Second Scot Zr Dv Pf	99¼	...
Second Scottish Natl	103	- ½
Sytner	234	...
Tetra	175½	...
Vanguard Med Wts	43½	...

RIGHTS ISSUES

Bdycte Int n/p (500)	342½	...
FI Group n/p (640)	250	+ 11½
Taylor Nel n/p (60)	20¼	+ 2½

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:

Manders	245p (+93½p)
API	595p (+25p)
Andrew Sykes	725p (+25p)
Northern Rock	563½p (+17p)
Photo-Me	142½p (+31p)

FALLS:

Time Products	*171p (-32½p)*
RMC Gp	827p (-91p)
Legal & Gen	480p (-47p)
Bank Scotland	559p (-47p)
Reed Int	600p (-38p)
Shell	420p (-26p)
Rio Tinto	700p (-40p)
Lloyds TSB	730p (-41½p)
Hays	793p (-45p)
Smithkline	607p (-32p)
Williams	333p (-17p)
Stand Chart	*655p (-32p)*

Closing Prices Page 22

TEMPUS

Business as usual

IS JAPAN undergoing a capitalist revolution? *Some would like to think so and investors in* Japanese equities are probably praying that it is true. More signals emerged this week to suggest that the Government is breaking the stranglehold on the economy held by Ministry of Finance civil servants. The tax cuts, totalling about £8 billion, will have little effect in relation to gross domestic product of some £2,300 billion. But the tax take has always been a relatively small part of the Japanese economy, given the low level of unemployment. The importance lies in Prime Minister Hashimoto's U-turn, leaving the door open to more tax cuts as the Government gets bolder.

The more important issue is whether the corporate culture is likely to change. Will Japanese industry at large abandon the "convoy system", where the weak prop up the strong?. The recent rush of banking failures smacks of panic, more a wringing of hands than a well-thought-out liquidation by creditors. The failure of Toshoku, the grain trader, highlights the precarious state of the non-financial sector in Japan, where more than 60 per cent of companies make no profit.

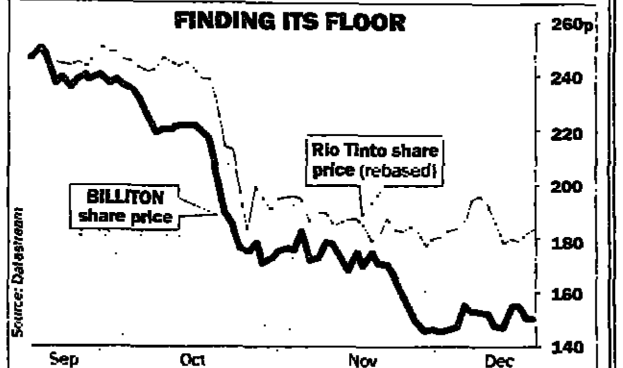
One sign of confidence will be more failures in the indebted construction sector, where Japanese banks are heavily exposed but unwilling to expose their losses. But investors should not rush to buy Japanese funds. Yesterday confirmed that the collectivist mindset of Japanese industry is unchanged: in search of growth, Sumitomo Metal Industries bought out a quoted electronic materials affiliate. The price offered in Sumitomo Metal shares was a 10 per cent discount to the market price of the affiliate's shares. *Plus ça change.*

Billiton

WHILE hedge funds continue to short base metals, the debt market sees the mining sector as a buy. *They like Billiton, the* aluminium producer, which yesterday said its $1.5 billion loan facility had been 40 per cent oversubscribed at an interest rate just ¼ per cent over Libor. Billiton is an ambitious and highly liquid company and many think this year will be the nadir for base metals, a good time to invest.

The share market has been unkind to Billiton but yesterday it was proving remarkably resilient as investors hammered rival Rio Tinto, the latter's share price falling some 5 per cent, while Billiton hardly moved. At 151p, Billiton is probably trading on just 10 times earnings.

That looks cheap although the metal markets are going into spasms about Asian demand. The real issue for the metals is supply: copper tells a bearish tale but aluminium is a bull story. Aluminium stocks at the London Metal Exchange have fallen over the past year, while demand is expected to grow 4-5 per cent this year. A setback in Asian consumption would be worrying. Japan consumes about 14 per cent of production with Korea and Taiwan another 5-6 per cent. But most of the production goes into exports such as cars and consumer durables and the net result of a credit crunch in Asia could be increased exports as manufacturers chase dollars. That means more demand for aluminium. When the market turns up, it will move fast.



BDB

AT LONG last Carlton and Granada have been granted their licence to broadcast around 15 new, or at least newish, digital terrestrial television channels under the British Digital Broadcasting banner. The regulatory problems over the licence seem almost settled — although Competition Commissioner Karel Van Miert's office in Brussels was still insisting last night that no final clearance had yet been given. The controversy was largely over the fact that BSkyB will supply some of its top premium channels — sport and movies — to BDB for seven years.

The length of the deal has now been cut to five years. It all seemed a strange affair. Without the sport and movie channels there was considerable agreement that BDB would have had the greatest difficulty getting off the ground. Now with the deal virtually intact and licences, granted things are looking up. There is now a chance that BDB will actually launch its service on schedule in the final quarter of next year — say November 1 — and then the difficulties will really begin. Trying to persuade the public to buy a digital box offering up to 30 channels in total when at the very least there will be "noise" in the marketplace from 200-channels digital satellite and digital cable systems looks a demanding venture. At the very least neither Carlton nor Granada shares should be marked up on the back of yesterday's news. It is only a very preliminary step.

Sports retailers

SOMETHING rather nasty is happening to Nike, but the prospect of brimming warehouses full of unsold trainers has yet to upset the retail sector. Yesterday, the US sports goods maker revealed a profits downturn and, more ominously, warned that orders in Asia and the US were down.

No one will be surprised to hear that mums in Seoul, Bangkok and even Tokyo are resisting demands from their kids for expensive trainers. Asian orders at Nike are down 12 per cent but less predictable is the downturn in the US where the order book is 10 per cent lower. Consumer demand in the US is buoyant, so the setback is likely to be fashion-driven.

UK retailers, such as JJB Sport and JD Sports will take comfort that Nike reported good orders from Europe but should they be so relaxed? Competitors, such as Tesco and Asda would dearly love to take some of the lucrative sports shoe market away from them. Manufacturers, like Adidas have resisted supplying them but will they be so bold if inventories are piling up. What is to stop Tesco buying a shipload of trainers in Hong Kong for sale in Hull? Time to take profits.

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

COMMODITIES

LIFFE

COCOA

Dec	1170 SLR	Mar	unq
Mar	1094-1093	May	1210 BID
May	1117-1115	Jul	unq
Jul	1137 SLR	Sep	1256-1242
Sep	1154-1152		
Dec	1170 SLR		Volume: 4866

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

Jan	1665-1660	Sep	unq
Mar	1641-1639	Nov	—
May	1635-1633	*Jan*	—
Jul	1623 SLR		Volume: 4967

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Oct	309.5-07.5
Spot 301.0		Dec	312.5-09.0
Mar	306.1-07.6	Mar	315.0-08.0
May	312.6-12.1	May	316.5-10.0
Aug	314.5-14.0		Volume: 693

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on December 15

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB	70.52	96.14	91.98
(+/-)	+5.27	-5.69	-1.25
Eng/Wales	70.52	96.60	91.10
(+/-)	+5.27	-3.76	-0.36
(%)	+24.0	-34.2	-34.0
Scotland	unq	92.56	94.07
(+/-)		-6.16	-4.84
(%)		+155.0	-11.0

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	17.25	+0.15
Brent 15 day (Feb)	17.60	+0.05
Brent 15 day (Mar)	17.70	n/c
W Texas Intermediate (Feb)	18.55	n/c
W Texas Intermediate (Mar)	18.70	-0.05

PRODUCTS ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

	Bid	Offer
Premium Unld	175 (n/c)	178 (n/c)
Gasoil EEC	162 (+1)	164 (+1)
3.5 Fuel Oil	79 (n/c)	82 (n/c)
Naphtha	170 (n/c)	172 (n/c)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)

GAS OIL

Jan	160.50-61.00	Apr	162.00-62.50
Feb	161.50-61.75	May	162.00-62.25
Mar	161.75-62.00		Vol: 8963

BRENT (6.00pm)

Feb	17.59-17.61	May	17.75 BID
Mar	17.65-17.69	Jun	17.79 BID
Apr	17.70 BID		Vol: 28848

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

LIFFE WHEAT (close £/t)		LIFFE BARLEY (close £/t)	
Jan	81.50	Jan	74.60
Mar	84.00	Mar	77.40
May	86.00	May	78.25
Jul	88.00	Sep	77.75
Sep	80.65	Nov	79.75
Volume: 636		Volume: 59	

LIFFE POTATO (£/t)

	Open	Close
Mar	unq	92.0
Apr	110.0	111.0
May	120.0	121.0
		Volume: 41

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/k)

Jan 45.50-46.00

LIFFE BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Dec 97	unq	—	1273
Jan 98	1170	1160	1165
Feb 98	unq	—	1175
Apr 98	1270	1260	1262

Vol: 43 lots Open Interest: 1666

Index 1253 -8

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

(Official) (Volume prev day)	Cash	3mth	Rudolf Wolff Vol
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	1755.0-1756.0	1785.0-1785.5	1439700
Lead ($/tonne)	543.00-544.00	552.50-553.00	276500
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1130.0-1131.0	1153.5-1154.5	28017
Tin ($/tonne)	5330.0-5340.0	5290.0-5295.0	13675
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1502.0-1503.0	1531.0-1531.5	2530300
Nickel ($/tonne)	5885.0-5890.0	5985.0-5990.0	112464

LIFFE OPTIONS

		Calls			Puts		
	Series	Jan	Apr	Jul	Jan	Apr	Jul
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

		Calls			Puts		
	Series	Feb	May	Aug	Feb	May	Aug
(*[illegible])	900	20	45	62½	56	53	66½
Vodafone	420	30½	48½	60½	16	29½	36½
(*432½)	460	13	30½	42	40	51	58
Woolwich	300	22	29	34	4½	10½	15
(*315)	330	6½	13½	20	19	26	31
Zeneca	2050	102	167	227½	50½	106	132
(*2046½)	2100	53½	120	176½	100½	154½	180½
BTR	180	11½	18½	23½	12	19½	21
(*190½)	200	5	11½	16½	24½	32½	34
[illegible]	320	22½	29½	35	11½	20	25
(*307½)	330	9½	16½	22	29	37½	42½
Bt Aero	1600	140	190	232	38	72	94
(*1672)	1700	83½	137	181½	79	118	141½
Bt Telcm	425	43	—	—	7½	—	—
(*456)	455	19½	—	—	23½	—	—
Cadbury	600	38	54	83½	15½	32½	36½
(*615)	550	14½	31	40	44	60	64
Energy Gp	650	36	47½	53½	9	16½	20½
(*665½)	700	8½	18	19½	34½	41	45½
[illegible]	330	25½	33	38½	12½	21	23
(*343½)	350	11½	18½	25	28½	37½	39½
[illegible]	390	20	33½	42	14½	21½	30½
(*[illegible])	420	8½	20½	28½	32½	38½	47½

		Calls			Puts		
	Series	Feb	May	—	Feb	May	—
[illegible] PLC	550	46	58½	—	12½	26½	—
(*[illegible])	500	19½	34½	—	37	52½	—

		Calls			Puts		
	Series	Feb	May	Aug	Feb	May	Aug
Diageo PLC	550	42½	55	66½	16	27	29½
(*[illegible])	600	19	34½	42	43	53½	55½
[illegible]	260	26	34½	38½	6	12½	14½
(*[illegible])	280	15	24½	28½	14½	22	24
[illegible]	390	20½	34	39	15	19½	25½
(*[illegible])	420	8	22	26	31	36½	42
[illegible]	800	69½	89	108	20	40½	47½
(*[illegible])	850	42	62	80½	40	64½	71
[illegible]	260	19	29	35	8½	14½	16
(*[illegible])	280	10	20½	23	18½	24½	26
[illegible]	260	19	29½	35½	8	16	20½
(*[illegible])	280	10	20	26	18½	26½	31
[illegible]	200	15½	23	26½	6½	11½	14
(*[illegible])	220	6½	14	17	16½	22	24½
[illegible]	650	56	69½	77½	17½	23	34
(*[illegible])	700	28½	47	51	34	47	56
Prudentl	700	59	83	96½	28	46½	57½
(*725)	750	35	58½	72	53	72	82½
Rio Tinto	650	73	85	97½	13	31	41
(*699)	700	44	58	72½	33	55	65
Redland	330	15½	19	16	½	0½	½
(*343½)	360	½	3½	½	16½	16½	16½
R-Royce	220	17	24	30	9½	15	16
(*228)	240	8	15	21	20	25	26½
Tesco	460	39½	50	62	10½	21	27
(*483½)	500	18½	31½	41½	28	41	46½
Utd Bisc	200	17½	20½	24½	5	10½	13
(*211)	220	6½	10½	15	13½	21½	23½

		Calls			Puts		
	Series	Mar	Jun	Sep	Mar	Jun	Sep
BG PLC	261	31½	36½	—	9	13½	—
(*279)	283	20	27½	—	16½	22½	—
BSkyB	420	54	67½	77½	18	25½	31
(*454)	460	32½	46½	58	36½	44½	50
Bt Bio	100	21	28½	34	12	15½	19½
(*104½)	110	17	24½	30½	16½	20½	25
[illegible]	90	8½	12	14	7½	9½	11
(*[illegible])	100	4½	8½	10	19½	15½	17
Dixons	600	39½	61	72½	35½	46½	57½
(*600)	650	19½	40	51½	63½	74½	86
EMI	460	39½	55½	66	30	39½	51
(*465½)	492	25½	—	—	48½	—	—
Granada	900	42	70	86½	39	52	61½
(*903)	950	25	47½	63½	66½	80½	89½
GUS	700	66	84	101½	24	32	40½
(*734½)	750	39½	58	76	47	56	64½
Llyds TSB	700	68½	86	102½	38½	47	58½
(*728½)	750	44½	61	78	63	72	83½
Lonrho	90	9	13½	14	7½	10	12
(*91)	100	5½	9½	10½	14	16½	18½
Norwich	360	32	38½	47	13½	20½	25
(*377)	390	18½	24	32½	28	36	40½
Orange	260	32	32	38	13	18½	21
(*264½)	280	12½	22	28½	24	30	31
Railtrack	900	93½	120½	139	42½	55	70
(*933½)	950	70	98½	114	65	77	94
Scot Pwr	500	48½	66½	75½	17½	25½	35
(*530½)	550	26	41½	50½	42	50½	60
Tarmac	110	8½	10½	12	6	8	8
(*110½)	120	4	5½	8	12	13½	14
Tomkins	280	26	35	39	8	12½	14½
(*297)	300	15½	24	28½	16	21½	23½
Unilever	*475*	*38½*	*47½*	—	*16½*	*26½*	—
(*489½)	500	25½	34½	45½	28½	38½	44½

December 19 Total: 48347 Calls: 25135 Puts: 23212

FTSE INDEX (*5017½)

	Calls					Puts				
Strike	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Jun	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Jun
4850	167½	256½	341½	325	—	—	99½	163½	199	—
4900	117½	218	310	354	477	—	112½	181½	218	281½
4950	67½	186½	278½	322½	—	—	132½	199½	237	—
5000	17½	156½	245½	290½	416	1	153	218½	257	330
5050	—	128½	212	258½	—	51	177½	237	277	—
5100	—	108	183	231	355	101	207½	262	301½	372½
5150	—	85½	156	205	—	151	237	288	328½	—
5200	—	65	127½	185½	307	201	270	313	357½	427½

December 19 Total: 2455 Calls: 2774 Puts: 5682

*Underlying security price

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
Long Gilt Previous open interest 184652	Dec 97 Mar 98	121-06 121-22	121-06 121-25	120-29 121-12	121-04 121-21	2813 44556
German Govt Bond (Bund) Previous open interest 235155	Mar 98 Jun 98	104.82	105.05	104.80	105.00 104.41	89093 0
German Govt Bond (Bobl) Previous open interest 19671	Mar 98 Jun 98	104.20	104.42	104.19	104.41 103.83	5104 0
Italian Govt Bond (BTP) Previous open interest 115465	Mar 98 Jun 98	116.00 115.46	116.17 115.46	115.66 115.21	116.17 115.57	26096 49
Japanese Govt Bond (JGB)	Mar 98 *Jun 98*	129.75 *129.37*	129.90 *129.37*	129.72 *129.27*	129.77 *129.2250*	1334
Three Mth Sterling Previous open interest 687488	Mar 98 Jun 98 Sep 98	92.38 92.49 92.67	92.45 92.55 92.72	92.38 92.48 92.65	92.44 92.55 92.71	14699 15032 8840
Three Mth Euromark Previous open interest 1790859	Mar 98 Jun 98	96.20 96.04	96.26 96.13	96.20 96.04	96.26 96.13	45306 38128
Three Mth Eurolira Previous open interest 545692	Mar 98 Jun 98	94.72 95.34	94.77 95.38	94.70 95.32	94.77 95.38	16604 9904
Three Mth Euroswiss Previous open interest 126724	Mar 98 Jun 98	98.30 98.14	98.31 98.16	98.26 98.11	98.28 98.14	6543 3207
Three Mth ECU Previous open interest 32924	Mar 98 Jun 98	95.53 95.55	95.54 95.55	95.52 95.53	95.54 95.55	530 20
FTSE 100 Previous open interest 70645	Dec 97 Mar 98	5100.0 5130.0	5115.0 5164.0	5025.0 5030.0	5038.5 5038.0	4406 12330

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 7¼ Finance Hse 7¼

Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 7⅛ Low 6¾ Week fixed: 7¼

Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 7¼ ; 3 mth 7⅛ . Sell: 2 mth 6⅞ ; 3 mth: 6⅞ .

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	7⅝-7½	7¹¹⁄₃₂-7⁹⁄₃₂	7¹¹⁄₃₂-7⁹⁄₃₂	7⅝-7⁵⁄₁₆	
Sterling Money Rates:	7⅝-7½	7⅝-7½	7⅝-7⅝	7¹¹⁄₁₆-7⅝	7¹¹⁄₁₆-7⅝
Interbank:	7⅝-7½	7⅝-7½	7⅝-7⅝	7¹¹⁄₁₆-7⅝	7¹¹⁄₁₆-7⅝

Overnight: open 7⅛, close 6½ .

Local Authority Deps:	7½	n/a	7⅝	7⅝	7⅝
Sterling CDs:	7¹⁹⁄₃₂-7¹⁷⁄₃₂	7²¹⁄₃₂-7¹⁹⁄₃₂	7²¹⁄₃₂-7¹⁹⁄₃₂	7⅝-7⅝	7⅝-7⅝
Dollar CDs:	5.85	n/a	5.79	5.79	5.88
Building Society CDs:	7⅝-7½	7⅝-7½	7⅝-7⅝	7¹¹⁄₁₆-7⅝	7¹¹⁄₁₆-7⅝

TREASURY BILLS: Applcts: £607m allotted: £100m: Bids: £98.255% received: 81%: last week: £98.24% received: 32%: Avge rate: £6.9821% last wk £7.0303%: Next week: £100m.

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	5⅝-5½	5¹¹⁄₁₆-5⁹⁄₁₆	5¾-5⅝	5¾-5⅝	5½-4½
Deutschemark:	3⅛-3	3⅜-3¼	3½-3⅜	3⅝-3½	4-3
French Franc:	3⅜-3¼	3⁹⁄₁₆-3⁷⁄₁₆	3¹¹⁄₁₆-3⁹⁄₁₆	3¹³⁄₁₆-3¹¹⁄₁₆	3½-2½
Swiss Franc:	⁷⁄₈-⁵⁄₈	1½-1⅜	1½-1⅜	1½-1⅜	1½-½
Yen:	⅝-½	⅝-½	⅝-½	⅝-½	1-par

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $288.80-289.10 **Close:** $288.00-288.50 **High:** $289.10-289.60 **Low:** $285.75-286.25 **AM:** $289.25 **PM:** $288.90

Krugerrand: $292.00-294.00 (£176.00-178.00)

Platinum: $355.00 (£212.25) **Silver:** $6.03 (£3.605) **Palladium:** $181.00 (£108.20)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for Dec 19	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	3.3110-3.3392	3.3245-3.3280	1⅛-1pr	3⅛-3⅛pr
Brussels	60.600-61.140	60.869-60.951	23-18pr	61-54pr
Copenhagen	11.194-11.294	11.241-11.250	⅛-⅛pr	1-⅛pr
Dublin	*1.1364-1.1516*	*1.1425-1.1446*	*12-6pr*	*48-41pr*
Frankfurt	2.9385-2.9621	2.9500-2.9526	⅛-⅛pr	2⅛-2⅛pr
Lisbon	300.43-303.75	303.42-303.75	⅛-⅛pr	2-1⅛pr
Madrid	248.63-250.83	250.21-250.51	60-49pr	179-160pr
Milan	2880.6-2907.8	2895.1-2899.2	40-24pr	121-98pr
Montreal	2.3701-2.3922	2.3876-2.3897	0.59-0.53pr	1.14-1.06pr
New York	1.6628-1.6746	1.6681-1.6690	0.223-0.202pr	0.713-0.682pr
Oslo	*12.018-12.133*	*12.093-12.102*	*⅛-⅛pr*	*1⅛-1pr*
Paris	9.8370-9.9250	9.8843-9.8930	3⅛-3⅛pr	9⅛-9⅛pr
Stockholm	12.826-12.963	12.919-12.934	⅛-⅛pr	⅛-⅛pr
Tokyo	213.64-215.62	215.05-215.33	1⅛-1⅛pr	3⅛-3⅛pr
Vienna	20.669-20.842	20.754-20.773	⅛-⅛pr	2-1⅛pr
Zurich	2.3787-2.3994	2.3830-2.3860	1⅛-1⅛pr	3⅛-3⅛pr

Source: Extel *Premium - pr. Discount - ds*

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.5288-1.5299
Austria	12.46-12.47
Belgium (Com)	36.55-36.59
Canada	1.4323-1.4328
Denmark	6.7494-6.7514
France	5.9315-5.9335
Germany	*1.7700-1.7710*
Hong Kong	7.7495-7.7505
Ireland	1.4564-1.4589
Italy	1738.25-1738.75
Japan	129.03-129.13
Malaysia	3.8200-3.8300
Netherlands	1.9960-1.9970
Norway	*7.2489-7.2539*
Portugal	181.12-181.20
Singapore	1.6705-1.6735
Spain	150.02-150.07
Sweden	7.7549-7.7599
Switzerland	1.4309-1.4319

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.6672-1.6699
Australia dollar	2.5457-2.5522
Bahrain dinar	0.620-0.634
Brazil real*	1.8590-1.8636
China yuan	*13.628-13.928*
Cyprus pound	0.8555-0.8745
Finland markka	8.835-8.976
Greece drachma	458.5-469.0
Hong Kong dollar	12.9231-12.9325
India rupee	64.66-65.96
Indonesia rupiah	n/a
Kuwait dinar KD	0.501-0.512
Malaysia ringgit	6.3711-6.3907
New Zealand dollar	2.8594-2.8645
Pakistan rupee	71.65 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.9675-6.1225
Singapore dollar	2.7867-2.7934
S Africa rand (com)	8.012-8.181
U A E dirham	6.0425-6.1785

*Barclays Treasury * Lloyds Bank*

FTSE VOLUMES

3i	1,100	Lloyds TSB	10,300
ASDA Gp	6,700	*LucasVarity*	*6,400*
Abbey Ntl	2,300	Marks Spr	8,500
Allnce & Leic	988	NatWst Bk	5,500
Allied Dom	1,200	Nat Grid	4,200
AB Foods	687	Nat Power	3,300
BAA	1,600	Next	2,400
BAT Inds	4,800	Norwich Un	2,600
BG	10,900	Nycmd Amer	184
BOC	967	Orange	1,200
BP	9,200	P & O	1,700
BSkyB	6,600	Pearson	3,300
BTR	15,300	PowerGen	1,400
BT	12,600	Prudential	4,000
Bk of Scot	5,300	RMC	1,800
Barclays	4,500	Railtrack	2,100
Bass	1,600	Rank Group	896
Billiton	3,900	Reckitt Col	562
Blue Circle	8,300	Reed Intl	2,400
Boots	1,500	Rentokil	4,300
BAe	454	Reuters	3,100
BA	2,700	Rio Tinto	3,700
British Land	1,200	Rolls Royce	7,200
Brit Steel	24,800	Royal & Sun	5,300
Cable Wire	4,700	Royal Bk Sct	3,300
Cadbury	2,500	Safeway	11,100
Carlton Cms	3,600	Sainsbury	4,100
Centrica	14,100	Schroders	162
Cm Union	633	Scot & New	996
Diageo	7,200	*Scot Power*	*3,700*
Dixons	6,700	Svrn Trent	640
EMI	2,300	Shell Trans	19,400
Energy Gp	6,300	Siebe	1,100
Enterpr Oil	2,600	SmKl Bch	9,200
GKN	1,800	Smiths Inds	434
GRE	3,500	Std Chartd	3,100
GUS	*1,500*	*Sun Life*	*731*
Gen Acc	423	TI Gp	6,000
Gen Elec	3,300	Tesco	5,500
Glaxo Well	6,700	Thames W	678
Granada	3,000	Tomkins	5,200
HSBC	3,000	Unilever	11,300
Halifax	6,000	Utd Utilities	2,000
Hays	*1,600*	*Utd News*	*2,500*
ICI	1,400	Vodafone	18,100
Kingfisher	1,600	Whitbread	906
LASMO	3,300	Williams	4,100
Ladbroke	2,500	Wolseley	967
Land Secs	1,100	Woolwich	3,200
Legal & Gn	2,000	Zeneca	1,400

WALL STREET

	Dec 19 midday	Dec 18 close
AMP Inc	39¾	40¾
AMR Corp	124	127¾
AT & T	59½	60¾
Abbott Labs	63	65¾
Advanced Micro	16¾	18
Aetna Life	69¾	69
Ahmanson (HF)	63¾	64¾
Air Prod & Chem	75¾	77¾
AirTouch Comm	38¾	39¾
Albertson's	46¾	46¾
Alcan Alumnm	26¾	27¾
Allied Signal	38¾	39¾
Alum Co of Am	*68¾*	*70¾*
Amerada Hess	49¾	51¾
AEP	51¾	51¾
Amer Express	86¾	88¾
Amer Genl Corp	53¾	54¾
Amer Home Pr	73¾	75
Amer Intl	105¾	108¾
Amer Stores	20	21
Amer Standard	38¾	38¾
Ameritech	81¾	83¾
Amgen	52¾	53¾
Amoco	82¾	83¾
Andrew Corp	20¾	22¾
Anheuser-Busch	42¾	43¾
Apple Computer	13¾	13¾
Archer Daniels	21¾	21¾
Armco	4¾	4¾
Armstrng Wrld	*73¾*	*74¾*
Asarco	22	22¾
Atl Richfield	74¾	77¾
Atmel Corp	18¾	19¾
Auto Data Pro	54¾	54¾
Avery Dennison	41¾	42
Avon Products	59	60
Baker Hughes	39¾	40¾
Baltim Gas & El	32¾	31¾
Banc One	53¾	55¾
BankAmerica	72¾	74¾
Bank of NY	56¾	58
Bankers Tr NY	118¾	120
Barnett Banks	70¾	73
Bausch & Lomb	37¾	39¾
Baxter Intl	47¾	49
Bectn Dicknsn	49¾	51¾
Bell Atlantic	*88¾*	*89¾*
BellSouth	55¾	57¾
Black & Decker	36¾	39¾
Block (H&R)	44¾	45
Boeing	46¾	49¾
Boise Cascade	29¾	30
Boston Scien	41¾	42¾
Bristol Myrs Sq	89¾	92¾
Browning Ferris	35¾	35¾
Brunswick	27¾	28¾
Burlington Nthn	91¾	94
CMS Energy Corp	40¾	40
CPC Intl	103¾	105¾
CSX	52¾	54
CBS Corp	27¾	29¾
Campbell Soup	55¾	57¾
Carolina Pwr	40¾	41¾
Case Corp	55	60¾
Caterpillar	47¾	48¾
Central & SW	25¾	26¾
Champion Intl	43¾	47¾
Chase Manhat	106¾	109¾
Chevron Corp	72¾	74¾
Chrysler	34¾	35¾
Chubb Corp	75	77¾
Ciena Corp	156¾	159¾
Citicorp	125	129¾
Clorox	74	76¾
Coastal Corp	58¾	60
Coca Cola	62¾	64¾
Coca Cola Ent	32¾	33¾
Colgate-Palm	66¾	68
Columbia Gas	74¾	76¾
ColumHCA	28¾	28¾
Compaq Comp	52¾	54
Comp Ass Intl	48¾	50
Conagra	36¾	37¾
Cons Edison	40	40¾
Cons Nat Gas	58	58¾
Cooper Inds	46¾	49¾
CoreStates	79¾	80¾
Corning Inc	35¾	37
Cwide Credit	39¾	41
Crestar Finl	54¾	56¾
Crown Cork	49¾	50¾
Dana Corp	47¾	45¾
Dayton Hudson	65¾	66¾
Deere	54¾	56
Delta Air Lines	112¾	115¾
Deluxe Corp	34¾	35¾
Digital Equip	36¾	36¾
Dillard Dept St	33¾	34¾
Disney (Walt)	94¾	97¾
Dominion Res	41¾	41¾
Donelley (RR)	36¾	37
Dover Corp	35¾	34¾
Dow Chemical	*95¾*	*97¾*
Dow Jones	52¾	55¾
Dresser	39¾	40¾
Duke Power	52	53¾
Dun & Brdstreet	30	29¾
Du Pont	55¾	58¾
Eastman Chem	57¾	58¾
Eastman Kodak	56¾	58

	Dec 19 midday	Dec 18 close
Eaton Corp	89¾	91
Edison Intl	25¾	26¾
Elect Data Sys	41¾	42¾
Emerson Elec	54¾	56¾
Engelhard Corp	*17¾*	*17¾*
Enron Corp	39¾	40
Entergy	27¾	27¾
Ethyl Corp	7¾	8¾
Exxon	59¾	61¾
FMC Corp	61¾	64¾
FPL Group	57¾	58
Federal Express	55¾	56¾
Fifth Third Banc	*78*	*79¾*
Fleet Finl Grp	72¾	73¾
Fluor Corp	38¾	39¾
Ford Motor	45¾	47¾
Fort James	37¾	38¾
Fortune Brands	35¾	36¾
Franklin Res	84¾	87¾
GTE Corp	49¾	50¾
Gannett	57¾	59¾
Gap Inc Del	33¾	34¾
Gateway 2000	31¾	30¾
Gen Dynamics	82¾	85¾
Gen Electric	71¾	74
Gen Mills	72¾	73¾
Gen Motors	58¾	62¾
Gen Reinsurance	206	210¾
Gen Signal	40¾	41¾
Genuine Parts	*32¾*	*32¾*
Georgia Pac	60¾	61¾
Gillette	96¾	98¾
Glaxo Wellc ADR	46¾	47¾
Goodrich (BF)	41	42
Goodyear Tire	60¾	64¾
Great Lakes	42¾	42¾
Halliburton	47¾	49¾
Harcourt General	51¾	53¾
Heinz (HJ)	51¾	52¾
Hercules	47¾	48¾
Hershey Foods	59¾	60¾
Hewlett Packard	60¾	62
Hilton Hotels	26¾	29¾
Home Depot	55¾	57¾
Homestake Mng	9¾	10¾
Honeywell	65¾	66¾
Household Intl	*120¾*	*122*
Houston Inds	24¾	24¾
Humana	19¾	19¾
ITT Corp	79	79¾
Ikon Office	24¾	25¾
Illinois Tool	55¾	56¾
Illinova	24¾	25
INCO	17¾	17¾
Ingersoll Rand	38¾	40¾
Inland Steel	16	16¾
Intel Corp	67¾	69¾
IBM	96¾	99¾
Intl Flav & Fr	48¾	49¾
Intl Paper	42¾	42¾
Jhnsn & Jhnsn	65¾	66¾
Kellogg	48¾	49¾
Kerr-McGee	61¾	61¾
Kimberly-Clark	46	47¾
Kmart	10¾	11¾
Knight-Ridder	50¾	51¾
Lilly (Eli)	65¾	67¾
Limited Inc	25¾	24¾
Lincoln Nat	73¾	74¾
Litton	56¾	57¾
Liz Claiborne	40	41¾
Lockheed Martin	97¾	96¾
Louisiana Pac	17¾	18¾
MCI Comm	43¾	44¾
Manpower Inc	33¾	33¾
Marriott Intl	65¾	67¾
Marsh & McLnn	71¾	73
Masco Corp	50¾	51¾
May Dept St	51¾	52¾
Maytag Corp	35¾	36¾
McDonalds	44¾	45¾
McGraw Hill	67¾	70¾
Mead Corp	25	28¾
Meditrust Corp	35¾	36¾
Medtronic	49¾	51¾
Mellon Bk	57¾	60
Merck Inc	102	105¾
Mercury Fin	0¾	0¾
Merrill Lynch	69¾	71
Microsoft	126¾	130¾
Minnesota Mine	83¾	85¾
Mirage Resorts	21¾	21¾
Mobil Corp	69¾	71¾
Monsanto	39¾	42¾
Morgan (JP)	115	118¾
Motorola Inc	55¾	55¾
Mylan Labs	18¾	19¾
Natl Semi	24¾	25¾
Natl Service Ind	45¾	46¾
Navistar Intl	22¾	23¾
NY Times A	63¾	66¾
Newmont Mng	26¾	28¾
Nike B	*39¾*	*42¾*
NL Industries	13	13¾
Nordstrom	56¾	56¾
Norfolk Sthn	29¾	30¾
Nthn States Pwr	56¾	56¾
Norwest Corp	36¾	37¾
Occidental Pet	28¾	29¾
Oracle	21¾	22

	Dec 19 midday	Dec 18 close
Oryx Energy Co	22¾	23¾
Owens Corning	34¾	34¾
PPG Industries	56	56¾
PMI Group	70¾	70¾
PNC Bank	*55¾*	*56¾*
PP&L Res	22¾	22
Paccar Inc	52¾	55
Pacificorp	25¾	24¾
Pac Enterprises	35¾	36¾
PaineWebber	34	35¾
Pall Corp	20¾	21¾
Parker Hannifin	42	43¾
Penn Energy	23¾	23¾
Penney (JC)	58¾	61
Pennzoil	65¾	67
Pepsico	34¾	34¾
Pfizer	70¾	74¾
Pharm & Upjhn	35¾	36¾
Phelps Dodge	60¾	61¾
Philip Morris	44¾	45
Phillips Pet	46¾	47¾
Pitney Bowes	85¾	90
Polaroid	44¾	44¾
Procter & Gmbl	79	79¾
Providian	42¾	44¾
Pub Serv E & G	29¾	29¾
Quaker Oats	51¾	52¾
Ralston Purina	91¾	93¾
Raychem Corp	41¾	42¾
Raytheon	*n/a*	*50¾*
Reebok Intl	28¾	29¾
Reliastar Fin	38¾	39¾
Reynolds Metals	57¾	59¾
Rockwell Intl	50	51
Rohm & Haas	85¾	90¾
Royal Dutch	52¾	54
Rubbermaid	23¾	24¾
SBC Comms	74¾	75¾
Safeco Corp	47¾	49
St Paul's Cos	82¾	83¾
Sara Lee Corp	54¾	55
Schering Plough	56¾	61¾
Schlumberger	74¾	77
Seagram	30¾	31¾
Sears Roebuck	41¾	42¾
Shell Trans	42¾	44
Sherwin Wllms	*25¾*	*26*
Silicon Graphics	12¾	12¾
Snap-On-Tools	43	44¾
Southern Co	23¾	24
Southtrust	59	60¾
Sprint Corp	55¾	56¾
Stanley Works	44	44¾
Sun Company	40¾	42¾
Sun Microsys	36¾	37¾
Suntrust	70	72¾
Supervalu	39¾	40
Synovus Fin	31¾	32¾
Sysco Corp	46¾	47¾
TRW Inc	52¾	52¾
TIG Hldgs	31¾	32
Tandy Corp	36¾	37¾
Temple Inland	51	52¾
Tenet Healthcare	31¾	32
Tenneco	38¾	38¾
Texaco	51¾	53¾
Texas Inst	43¾	43¾
Texas Utilities	40¾	40¾
Textron	57¾	61
Thermo Elect	38¾	40
Time Warner	59¾	60¾
Times-Mirror A	58¾	60
Timken	33¾	34¾
Torchmark	39¾	40¾
Toys R Us	28¾	30
Transamerica	105¾	110¾
Travelers	52¾	55
Tribune	59¾	60¾
UST Inc	35¾	35¾
US Bancorp	109	112¾
UAL	88¾	90¾
[illegible]	62¾	64¾
US Inds	27¾	28¾
US West Comm	44¾	46
US West Media	27¾	27¾
US Airways Group	59¾	61
USX Marathon	31¾	32¾
Unicom	29¾	29¾
Unilever NV	58¾	61¾
Union Camp	50¾	51¾
Union Carbide	42¾	44¾
Union Pacific	58¾	60¾
Unisys Corp	11¾	12¾
USF&G Corp	22¾	22¾
United Tech	69¾	71¾
Unocal Corp	37¾	38¾
VF Corp	43¾	44¾
Wal-Mart Stores	38¾	39¾
Warner-Lambert	116¾	118
Waste Mngmnt	26¾	27¾
Wells Fargo	329	330
Weyerhaeuser	47	48
Whirlpool	*52¾*	*54¾*
Whitman	25	26¾
Winn Dixie	41¾	43¾
Witco Corp	39¾	40¾
Woolworth	19¾	20
Wrigley (Wm) Jr	77¾	78¾
Xerox	68¾	69¾
Xilinx Inc	32¾	34¾

THE TIMES TODAY

SATURDAY DECEMBER 20 1997

NEWS

Porter is ordered to repay £27m

■ The High Court branded Dame Shirley Porter and a former colleague liars as it upheld a £27 million surcharge imposed by the district auditor in the Westminster City Council homes-for-votes affair. The court ruled that John Magill, Westminster's district auditor, had acted lawfully and correctly when ordering the repayment from Dame Shirley, Tory council leader at the time, and her deputy David Weeks .... Pages 1, 10

GPs' secret code labels problem patients

■ Patients have been given an insight into the codes GPs use to alert colleagues to difficult customers. Strange initials on medical notes have little to do with physical conditions and a lot to do with what a doctor thinks of the patient .... Page 1

Two-week Christmas

The longest Christmas began with record numbers heading for a two-week holiday .... Page 1

Britons killed

Three Britons were on board a jet which crashed in Indonesia with the loss of all 104 passengers and crew.................................. Page 1

Welcome for Emperor

Second World War veterans seeking compensation said they would treat with dignity the first state visit to Britain of Emperor Akihito of Japan .... Page 2

Rugby star quits

Gywn Jones, 25, the Wales rugby captain hurt during a match last Saturday, has been forced to retire .... Page 5

Souvenir success

Lawyers representing the estate of the late Diana, Princess of Wales, have won a court ruling that gives her family control of the potentially huge souvenir trade ...... Page 7

First in flying

As stunts go it is one of the oldest, but this week critics hailed flying scenes in the National Theatre's *Peter Pan* production as possibly the most realistic................ Page 8

Memorial Mass

The parents of a Frenchwoman murdered at her Irish home arrived for a memorial Mass.. Page 9

Keeping Fiat in family

Giovanni Agnelli's decision to bring his grandson John Elkann, 21, into the Fiat boardroom was greeted as a bold bid to keep "family control"........................Page 13

MI6 'setback'

Russia's counter-intelligence service head said Britain's Russian espionage operations had been set back 20 years .... Page 14

Flu fears grow

A leading flu expert arrived in Hong Kong as fears grew over "chicken flu"......................Page 15

Tory leader marries at Westminster

■ William and Ffion Hague flew off to a honeymoon hideaway after a traditional wedding in the crypt chapel at the Palace of Westminster. Outside they were applauded by hundreds of wellwishers as they kissed for cameras .... Pages 1, 3

GEORGE KARACHALIS / REUTERS

The Greek actress Maria Pambouki, right, lights an Olympic torch in a ceremony before February's Nagano Winter Games

NEWS FEATURES

Big climb: Climbers and photographers brought back footage of the scaling of Everest, shot in the Imax format — a success marred by tragedy when eight other climbers died on one day.......... Page 6

Open Gates: The lakeside stronghold of the world's richest man is a £32 million labyrinthine monument to rustic chic ....Page 11

Valerie Grove: Lauren Booth poses for a noon photograph, smoking a cigarette and drinking champagne with a cheering absence of new Labour qualms .... Page 17

OPINION

Crying chicken: With antibiotics, vaccines, and an ability to detect a new flu outbreak from one case, humans should celebrate their power .... Page 19

Dutch courage: The raid sends out important messages — to Bosnian communities harbouring war criminals, and to The Netherlands, contributors to the Stabilisation Force........... Page 19

LETTERS

Bosnian intervention: class in society; EU spokesmen's role; truth about Santa .... Page 19

COLUMNS

Simon Jenkins: Edmund Burke's bitter words hover over those behind the Greenwich dome .... Page 18

Magnus Linklater: Thabo Mbeki has been accorded notices from the barely respectful to the niggardly. It is hard to equate them with the Thabo Mbeki I know ..... Page 18

OBITUARIES

Lillian Disney, wife of Walt and inventor of Mickey Mouse name; **Cecil Kennedy**, flower painter; **Francis Paudras**, denizen of jazz demi-monde .... Page 21

BUSINESS

Eurotunnel: The British and French Governments have extended the chanel tunnel operators' franchise from 2052 to 2086 .... Page 23

Power: Britain is to allow a US bid for The Energy Group .... Page 23

Markets: The FTSE 100 fell 148.1 points to close at 5020.2. Sterling rose to $1.6690 and to DM2.9518 .... Page 27

WEEKEND MONEY

New debit?: Accountants fear national insurance contributions could rise in next year's Budget .... Page 56

SPORT

Cricket: An unbeaten 66 by Graham Thorpe steered England to a three-wicket victory over West Indies in the Champions Trophy final in Sharjah .... Page 29

Football: Steve McManaman advocates a winter break for the English game .... Page 35

Rugby union: The visit of Pau in the Heineken Cup semi-finals is an opportunity for Bath to make a statement on their own behalf and for English rugby as a whole........... Page 37

SECTIONS

MAGAZINE

Ruff stuff: How top choirs pitch for the best boy choristers.............. Page 8
Staying power: Two of London's grander hotels.................. Page 14
Christmas Quiz: Trivia test for '97 .... Page 22
Fashion: All those trimmings.............. Page 28
Food: No turkey? Page 35

[illegible]

Big Interview: Natalie Imbruglia .... Pages 6-8
Comedy: Meet Armstrong and Miller .... Page 10
Year's best: Albums and books............. Pages 13-23
Critics: Best and worst of 1997 .... Pages 24, 25
Quiz on arts.. Pages 26, 27
Listings: Pantomimes plus .... Pages 28-47

WEEKEND

The One: Seeking that all-too-elusive Christmas chart-topper...... Pages 1, 3
Fashion: Stick your neck out, fake jewels are fun.......................... Page 5
Lapping it up: Reindeer back in Scotland .. Page 11
Travel: Barbados; Dublin; Stockholm; skiing in America .... Pages 15-20

Vision

14-day television guide, plus a week's radio

m@g

Discover the spooky side of the Christmas season

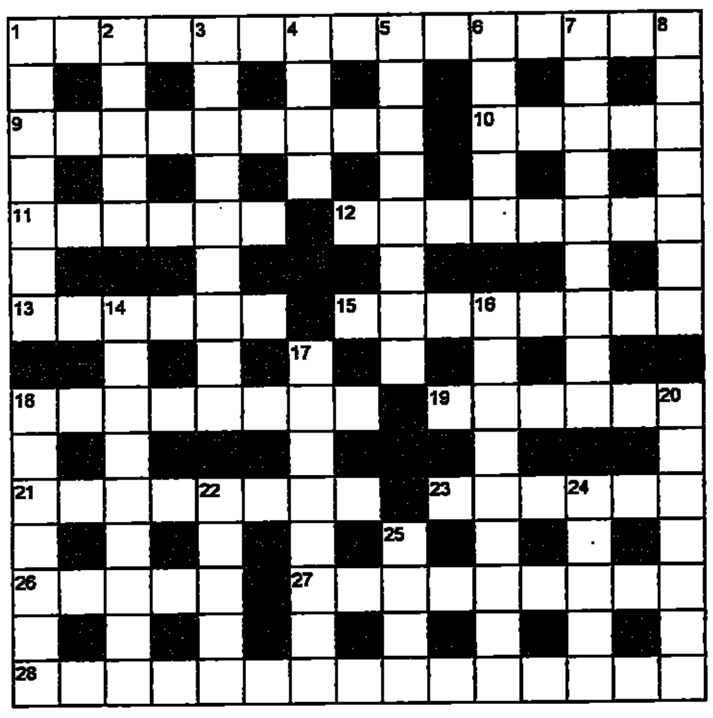
THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,668

A £20 book token will be awarded to the senders of the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The names of the winners and the solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address ....

....

....



ACROSS

1 Protective cladding needed if, say, going away to school (15).
9 Stamina is called for in French trip round old city (9).
10 Roman town initially on seashore, though inland afterwards (5).
11 Type or sort of bean (6).
12 One enters Crete's old resort intended for select few (8).
13 Run down part of army base (6).
15 German dramatist, married with English family (8).
18 Stray animal's cry, held back by a whip (5,3).
19 Lowers boats holding 50 (6).
21 Start to carve a head and neck (8).
23 Injury resulting from run in the country (6).
26 Religious body involved in rule-making (5).
27 Party with children not the main affair (4-5).
28 Went off to a binge, I heard? Pretended not to notice (6,1,5,3).

DOWN

1 Destroyer's crew at sea with king and queen (7).
2 Reckoned it's bad losing a pound (5).
3 Boisterous behaviour from supporter before game (9).
4 Called for support for the chair (4).
5 Look up English plant or evergreen (8).
6 Australian bounder on the way to stay the night (5).
7 Start off sort of sports spectacle for audience (9).
8 Reflected in the middle of surgery, and made an incision (7).
14 Propose true love — different name must be accepted (9).
16 Special case that justifies the law (9).
17 Old chucker sends last bail flying (8).
18 Record score (7).
20 It's natural but wrong having religious education under the Church (7).
22 Soldiers upset when expected to make speeches (5).
24 Porter is in central part of carriage (5).
25 One admired in lido when swimming (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,662

T	I	R	E	S	O	M	E		S	A	M	P	A	N
R		E		P		I				W		O		E
A	R	C	H	A	I	S	M		H	O	B	N	O	B
N		O		C		C		S		K		Y		R
C	R	U	D	E		O	R	C	H	E	S	T	R	A
E		P		S		N		R				A		S
			S	H	O	C	K	I	N	G	P	I	N	K
W		C		I		E		P		O		L		A
R	E	A	P	P	O	I	N	T	I	N	G			
E		R				V		W		D		S		B
T	E	D	D	Y	B	E	A	R		O	U	T	R	E
C		I		O		D		I		L		R		A
H	A	N	G	U	P		S	T	R	I	K	I	N	G
E		A		N				E		E		N		L
D	E	L	U	G	E		P	R	O	R	O	G	U	E

Solution to Puzzle No 20,667

W	I	M	P		A	L	P	E	N	S	T	O	C	K
A		E				O		P		A		R		I
R	O	D	E		A	C	C	O	U	N	T	A	N	T
P		I		I		A		N		F		N		T
L	I	T	E	R	A	L	L	Y		R	O	G	U	E
A		A		V				M		A		E		N
N	O	T	H	I	N	G	D	O	I	N	G			
E		E		N		E		U		C		R		H
			A	G	G	R	E	S	S	I	V	E	L	Y
C		G		B		M				S		T		S
H	E	A	V	E		A	N	A	R	C	H	I	S	T
A		T		R		N		U		O		C		E
S	P	E	L	L	B	I	N	D	S		T	E	A	R
T		A		I		U		I				N		I
E	Q	U	A	N	I	M	I	T	Y		S	T	O	A

LAST WEEK'S WINNERS: *E J Riddell, Alton, Hants; G F Ayling, Lewisham, London; P Bealby, Stockton-on-Tees; M Layton, Wellesbourne, Warwick; J J Owens, Haverfordwest, Pembs.*

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HOURS OF DARKNESS

TODAY

Sun rises: 8.03 am Sun sets: 3.55 pm
Moon sets 11.35 am Moon rises 10.59 pm

Last quarter tomorrow

London 3.53 pm to 8.04 am
Bristol 4.03 pm to 8.13 am
Edinburgh 3.39 pm to 8.42 am
Manchester 3.51 pm to 8.23 am
Penzance 4.22 pm to 8.19 am

TOMORROW

Sun rises: 8.04 am Sun sets: 3.54 pm
Moon sets 11.58 am Moon rises -

Last quarter today

London 3.54 pm to 8.04 am
Bristol 4.04 pm to 8.14 am
Edinburgh 3.40 pm to 8.43 am
Manchester 3.51 pm to 8.24 am
Penzance 4.22 pm to 8.19 am

HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	06 15	6.7	17 41	6.7
Aberdeen	05 36	3.9	17 15	3.8
Avonmouth	10 33	11.4	23 06	10.8
Belfast	02 42	3.1	14 56	3.4
Cardiff	10 24	10.6	22 52	10.0
Devonport	09 08	5.0	21 35	4.6
Dover	02 13	6.2	14 40	5.9
Dublin (N Wall)	03 15	3.7	15 33	3.9
Falmouth	08 33	4.8	21 06	4.4
Greenock	03 22	3.2	15 52	3.6
Harwich	[illegible]	3.7	15 29	3.7
Holyhead	01 51	5.0	14 05	5.1
Hull (Albert D)	10 00	7.7	22 07	7.8
Ilfracombe	09 26	8.0	21 54	7.6
King's Lynn	10 04	5.7	22 07	5.8

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
Leith	06 22	5.0	18 42	4.9
Liverpool	02 35	8.4	14 51	8.4
Lowestoft	00 42	2.2	13 40	2.3
Margate	03 15	4.4	15 50	4.4
Milford Haven	09 46	6.1	22 12	5.7
Newquay	08 42	6.1	21 09	5.7
Oban	08 50	3.5	21 36	3.2
Penzance	08 07	5.0	20 33	4.7
Portland	10 05	1.8	22 35	1.5
Portsmouth	02 47	4.2	14 52	4.2
Shoreham	02 24	5.8	14 29	5.5
Southampton	02 09	4.2	14 25	4.2
Swansea	09 44	8.4	22 12	7.9
Tees	07 22	4.3	19 36	4.8
Walton-on-N	02 32	3.8	15 26	3.8

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Penzance, Cornwall 13C (55F); lowest day max: Warcop, Cumbria, 5C (41F); highest rainfall: Inverbervie, Aberdeenshire and Leuchars, Fife 1.46in; highest sunshine: Falmouth, Cornwall 5.2hr.

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING
Recycled paper made up 40.6% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the second half of 1996

FORECAST

☐ **General:** northeast Scotland will start cloudy and wet, but rain will persist only in the far north. The rest of Scotland and much of England and Wales will start grey and misty with some fog and drizzle. It may brighten a little, but many places will stay cloudy. In SW England and S Wales scattering of showers will develop, becoming heavy in places.

Tonight it will be turn misty in many areas with thick fog over the hills. Winds will be mainly light and variable and it will be fairly mild.

☐ **London, SE England, E Anglia, Midlands, E England, Cent N England, NE England:** early fog and patchy drizzle. Mostly cloudy, odd bright spell in afternoon. Light, variable wind. Max 10C (50F).

☐ **Cent S England, Channel Isles, SW England, S Wales:** early fog and drizzle then sunny spells, but showers in afternoon. Light, variable wind. Max 11C (52F).

☐ **N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man:** early fog and patchy drizzle will become confined to hills, but generally cloudy. Light, variable wind. Max 9C (48F).

☐ **Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Cent Highlands, N Ireland:** dull with drizzle at first and fog over hills. Dry in afternoon, a few bright spells. Light, southerly wind. Max 9C (48F).

☐ **Moray Firth, NE Scotland:** overcast and dull with rain in morning clearing northwards. Moderate to fresh S to SE wind. Max 8C (46F).

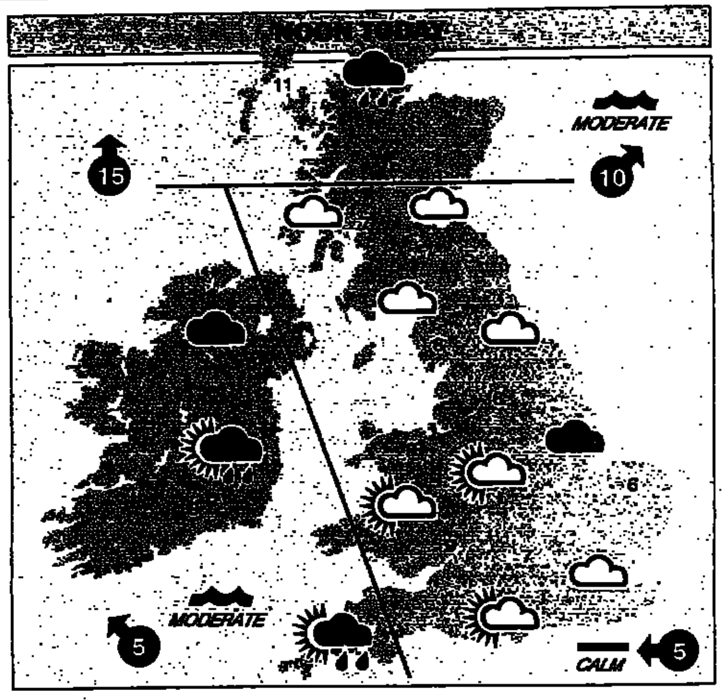
☐ **Argyll, NW Scotland:** dull and cloudy with rain at first, particularly to north. Moderate, southerly wind. Max 9C (48F).

☐ **Orkney, Shetland:** cloudy, dull with rain and light drizzle. Moderate to fresh S to SE wind. Max 8C (46F).

☐ **Republic of Ireland:** early fog patches clearing slowly. Mostly dry, a few bright intervals. Wind light, variable. Max 9C (46F).

Outlook: staying fairly mild. Rain in South and West on Monday.

NOON TODAY



AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

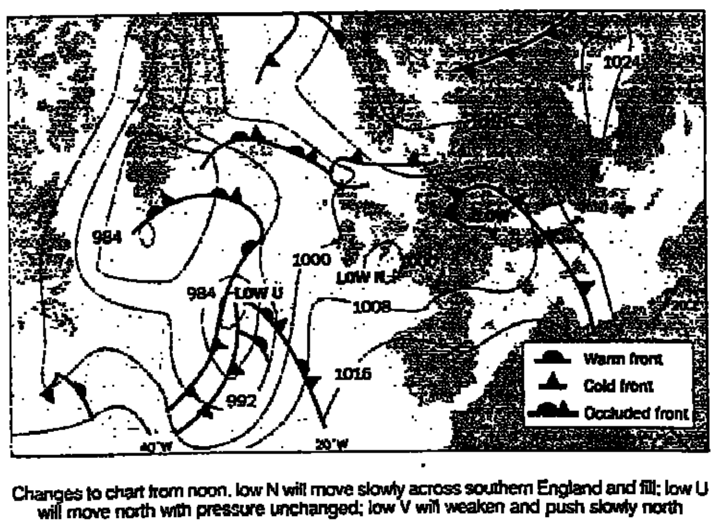
24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	-	1.11	7	45	r	Leuchars	-	1.46	8	46	r
Anglesey	0.6	-	9	48	b	Littlehmptn	X				
Aspatria	-	0.03	6	43	du	London	-	0.01	9	48	du
Aviemore	-	0.31	5	41	r	Lowestoft	-	0.75	9	48	r
Belfast	-	-	9	48	c	Manchester	-	0.01	8	46	c
Birmingham	-	0.01	7	45	du	Margate	-	0.78	9	48	r
Bognor R	-	0.01	9	48	du	Minehead	1.2	0.01	8	46	fg
Bournem'th	X					Morecambe	-	0.03	6	43	du
Bristol	-	0.01	8	46	du	Newcastle	X				
Buxton	-	0.02	5	41	fg	Newquay	X				
Cardiff	-	-	7	45	fg	Norwich	-	0.79	9	48	r
Clacton	-	0.31	8	46	r	Oxford	-	0.01	7	45	fg
Cleethorpes	X					Penzance	X	0.02	13	55	c
Colwyn Bay	-	0.01	6	43	fg	Poole	-	0.01	9	48	fg
Cromer	-	0.56	8	46	r	Prestatyn	X	0.01	6	43	c
Dunbar	X					Ross-o-wye	-	0.01	8	46	du
Eastbourne	0.1	0.27	10	50	du	Salcombe	X				
Edinburgh	-	0.42	8	46	r	Saunton Snd	3.7	-	12	54	s
Eskdalemuir	-	0.20	7	45	r	Scarboro'	-	0.74	7	45	r
Exmouth	0.1	-	11	52	c	Shrewsbury	-	0.01	6	43	fg
Falmouth	5.2	0.01	13	55	c	Skegness	X				
Fishguard	2.7	-	8	46	fg	Southend	-	1.21	9	48	r
Folkestone	-	1.04	11	52	r	Southport	-	0.01	7	45	du
Glasgow	-	0.20	8	46	du	Southsea	0.9	-	9	48	du
Guernsey	0.2	0.01	10	50	s	Stornoway	X				
Hastings	-	0.35	9	48	r	Swanage	-	-	9	48	c
Hayling I.	-	0.02	8	46	fg	Teignmouth	0.1	0.01	10	50	c
Herne Bay	-	1.15	9	48	r	Tenby	-	0.01	9	48	fg
Hove	-	-	9	48	du	Tiree	X				
Hunstanton	X	0.83	7	45	r	Torquay	0.1	0.01	10	50	b
Isle of Man	-	-	9	48	c	Tynemouth	-	0.68	8	46	r
Isle of Wight	-	0.01	9	48	fg	West-s-mare	X				
Jersey	-	0.01	9	48	fg	Weymouth	0.6	-	12	54	du
Kinloss	-	0.35	7	45	r						
Leeds	-	0.13	7	45	r						
Lerwick	-	0.01	6	43	d						

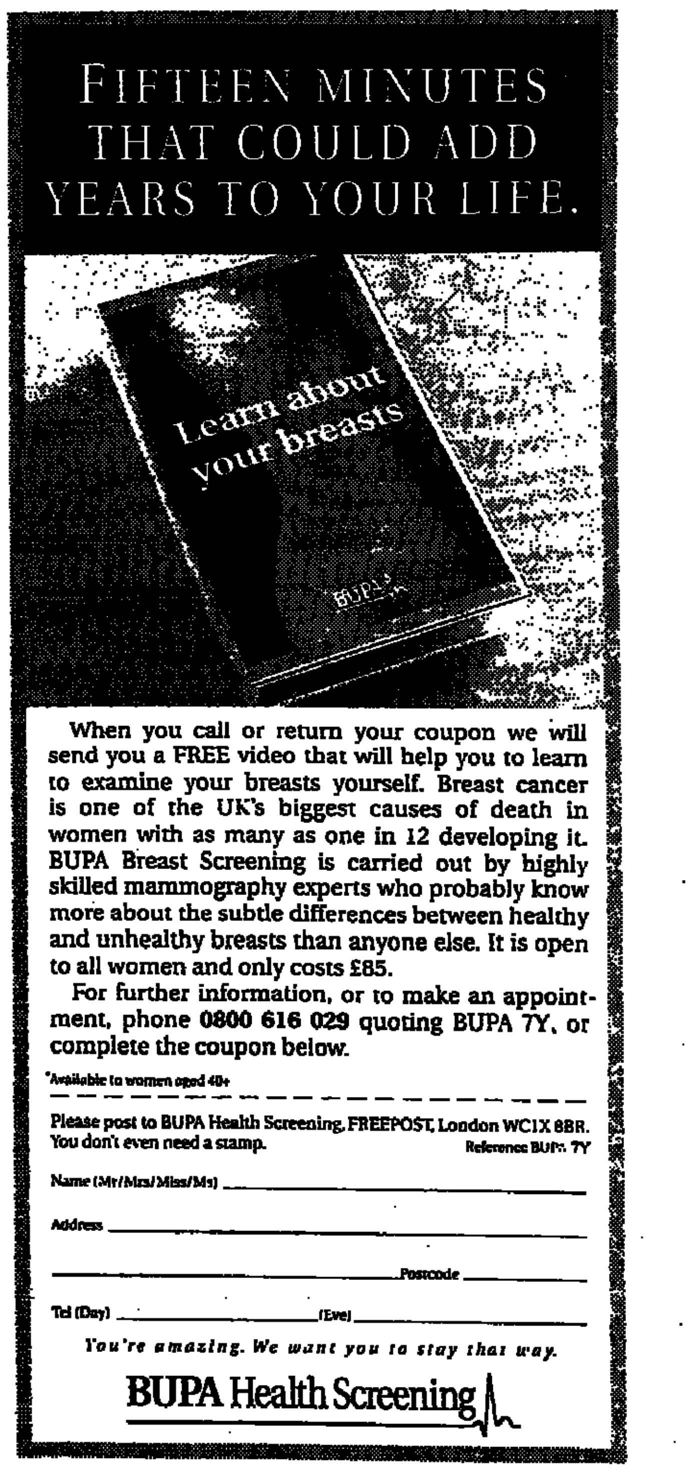
ABROAD

Ajaccio	19	66	f	C'phagn	0	32	c	Madrid	10	50	f	Riyadh	19	66	s
Akrotiri	16	61	f	Corfu	12	54	c	Majorca	18	64	f	Rome	17	63	s
Alex'dria	18	64	c	Dublin	10	50	r	Malaga	18	64	s	Salzburg	0	32	s
Algiers	22	72	f	Dubrovnik	11	52	f	Malta	18	64	s	S Fr'isco	11	52	s
Amst'dm	5	41	f	Faro	15	59	r	Melb'rne	17	63	f	Santiago	25	77	s
Athens	6	43	c	Florence	10	50	f	Mexico C	11	52	f	Seoul	9	48	c
Bahrain	21	70	s	Frankfurt	1	34	f	Miami	17	63	f	Sing'por	25	77	t
Bangkok	35	95	s	Funchal	20	68	f	Milan	1	34	r	St'kholm	-3	27	fg
Barbados	30	86	f	Geneva	5	41	r	Montreal	-8	18	X	Strasb'rg	1	34	c
Barcelona	15	59	r	Gibraltar	17	63	r	Moscow	-5	23	sn	Sydney	23	73	f
Beirut	18	64	f	Helsinki	0	32	s	Munich	0	32	s	Tangier	17	63	c
Belgrade	-1	30	s	Hong K	21	70	b	Nairobi	24	75	f	Tel Aviv	17	63	c
Berlin	-3	27	s	Innsbrck	9	48	f	Naples	17	63	s	Tenerife	23	73	f
Bermuda	23	73	f	Istanbul	0	32	sn	N Delhi	14	57	c	Tokyo	14	57	s
Biarritz	18	64	s	Jeddah	31	88	s	N York	7	45	s	Toronto	2	36	f
Borde'x	13	55	f	Jo'burg	24	75	s	Nice	9	48	r	Tunis	18	64	s
Brussels	10	50	f	Karachi	X			Oslo	0	32	c	Valencia	14	57	f
Budapst	-5	23	f	L Palmas	24	75	c	Paris	12	54	c	Vanc'ver	3	37	f
B Aires	18	64	r	Le Touqt	8	46	f	Peking	1	34	s	Venice	5	41	c
Cairo	16	61	c	Lisbon	11	52	f	Perth	28	82	s	Vienna	-6	21	c
Cape Tn	19	66	c	Locarno	1	34	sl	Prague	-5	23	c	Warsaw	-7	19	s
Chicago	7	45	s	L Angels	13	55	r	Reykjavik	4	39	s	Wash'ton	9	48	s
Ch'church	26	79	X	Luxembg	2	36	r	Rhodes	12	54	s	Well'ngton	20	68	X
Cologne	5	41	f	Luxor	22	72	s	Rio de J	28	82	f	Zurich	3	37	f

Temperatures at midday local time on Thursday X = not available



Changes to chart from noon: low N will move slowly across southern England and fill; low U will move north with pressure unchanged; low V will weaken and push slowly north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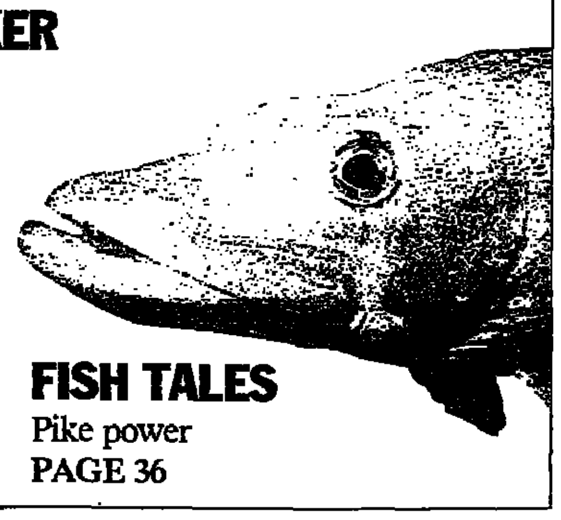

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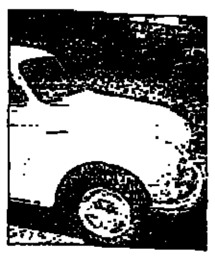

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THE TIMES SATURDAY SPORT

DECEMBER 20 1997

HOLLIOAKE COMPLETES PERFECT DESERT CAMPAIGN

Fleming's all-round drill fuels England

FROM MICHAEL HENDERSON IN SHARJAH

SHARJAH (West Indies won toss): England beat West Indies by three wickets

WITH a display remarkable for its tenacity and great cricket sense, England won the Champions Trophy last night under the floodlights in this oil-rich state. Graham Thorpe and Matthew Fleming, aided by some abominable bowling and fielding by the West Indians, met the demand of 73 from the last ten overs with such assurance that the last 11 balls were not needed.

What a card Fleming is! The man who came into this tournament as a replacement for Darren Gough ended it in glory by making 34 important runs, from 27 balls, as if his three wickets and run-out earlier in the day were not substantial enough. The pity was that he ran himself out with a single required but Dougie Brown, another newcomer to international cricket, struck his first ball for four and the game was England's.

Women prepare 30

Thorpe, the rock through which the late water surged, was unbeaten on 66 at the end. Without him they could not have won. But it was Fleming, seizing the moment as West Indies lost their nerve, who supplied the impetus when it was required. He has been an outstanding player in this past week, vindicating his selection with a series of fine all-round performances.

If ever a game revealed what divides teams in spirit, this was it. England refused to yield an inch, even when Williams was launching the West Indies innings with a flurry of bold strokes and when, later, they lost their sixth wicket on 165. West Indies, on the other hand, looked a rabble, conceding 31 runs in extras and ending the game in disarray.

Simmons, towards the end, bowled a nine-ball over, which included two no-balls and a wide. Lewis, the wrist spinner, bowled four no-balls, an unforgiveable indulgence. The fielding as England charged towards victory was appalling. Nothing can disguise the brittleness of this team, which faces wholesale change before it can face England in the Test series that begins next month.

For a while, though, it seemed that England had mislaid their surest touch. West Indies, benefiting from winning the toss, made a good score as Stuart Williams, the leading run-maker in the competition, and Chanderpaul made half-centuries. Then they proceeded to bowl tightly and, when the ball lost its hardness, Hooper again proved effective with his gentle off spin.

England began to lose their way in Hooper's first over when Knight, responding to Stewart's call for a quick single, failed to make his ground at the bowler's end. It was by no means clear that Hooper, fielding the throw from Stuart Williams, broke the wicket in time, but Knight was judged to be run out.

It was a significant loss because his second-wicket stand with Stewart had realised 75 comfortable runs. What England could not afford was another wicket and, in successive overs, they lost their two most forceful strokeplayers. Hick got off the mark with a six over mid-wicket off Lewis and then pulled a long hop in his next over to short mid-wicket. Stewart, having completed a bracing half-century, went back to Hooper and was bowled when the ball crept.

When England needed to score at a run a ball, Hollioake took 40 to make 16. Ealham, bowled as he swished at Walsh, could not lend Thorpe his support.

But Fleming most definitely could and did. Taking with relish to Lewis, who troubled everybody by bowling into the rough from round the wicket, he compelled him to go over the wicket instead by sweeping one slightly fortunate boundary and driving another one, through extra cover.

To contain West Indies as they did, after Williams and Chanderpaul had taken 62 from the first ten overs and were not parted until the innings was three runs short of 100, was another manifestation of the spirit that has marked England's cricket.

The most important wicket, Lara's, was a real curio. The fall of Williams, caught well by Ally Brown at long-on, brought Lara to the crease and he had taken singles from his first two balls when he lurched forward at Ealham and missed. Stewart took the ball cleanly and, out of curiosity, took half a bar's rest to see whether the batsman's back foot would slip.

It did, an inch or so, and, in an act of sheer insouciance, the England wicketkeeper whipped off one bail like a magician producing a rabbit from his handkerchief. Lara was embarrassed and confused in equal measure by the appeal and by the subsequent referral to the third umpire, B C Cooray, who confirmed that he was out.

Ealham, who gave away only 26 runs and conceded a single boundary, was again the most impressive bowler, at least until Fleming, on the premise that there is no show without Punch, popped up with three late wickets. He also ran out Chanderpaul from a semi-recumbent posture at backward point, a direct hit that Croft was soon to match from cover.

In batting, bowling and fielding England have proved good enough to win this competition. As they know, where the World Cup is concerned, this is only the start.

STU FORSTER / ALLSPORT

Lara, left, looks on bemused as Stewart appeals successfully for an audacious stumping during England's victory in the final yesterday

SCOREBOARD FROM SHARJAH

West Indies won toss

WEST INDIES

S C Williams c A D Brown b Croft (67 balls, 6 fours)	55
S Chanderpaul run out (Fleming) (109 balls, 1 six, 4 fours)	76
B C Lara st Stewart b Ealham (3 balls)	2
C L Hooper lbw b Fleming (52 balls, 1 four)	34
P V Simmons not out (37 balls, 3 fours)	39
R I C Holder lbw b Fleming (3 balls)	0
R N Lewis b Fleming (17 balls, 1 four)	16
F A Rose run out (Croft) (1 ball)	0
†D Williams not out (11 balls)	9
Extras (lb 3, w 1)	4
Total (7 wkts, 50 overs)	235

*C A Walsh and M V Dillon did not bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-97 (Chanderpaul 40), 2-101 (Chanderpaul 42), 3-164 (Hooper 28), 4-174 (Simmons 4), 5-174 (Simmons 4), 6-200 (Simmons 14), 7-200 (Simmons 14)

BOWLING: D R Brown 5-0-35-0 (5 fours, one spell); Headley 7-0-39-0 (4 fours, 6-0-31-0, 1-0-8-0), Ealham 10-1-26-1 (1 four, one spell), Hollioake 10-0-50-0 (w 1, 1 six, 1 four, 1-0-5-0, 9-0-45-0), Croft 10-0-40-1 (1 four, one spell); Fleming 8-0-42-3 (3 fours, one spell)

Score after 15 overs: 76-0

ENGLAND

A D Brown c Chanderpaul b Rose (13 balls)	1
†A J Stewart b Hooper (67 balls, 3 fours)	51
N V Knight run out (S C Williams/Hooper) (59 balls, 1 four)	24
G A Hick c Hooper b Lewis (12 balls, 1 six)	9
G P Thorpe not out (74 balls, 5 fours)	66
*A J Hollioake st D Williams b Hooper (40 balls)	16
M A Ealham b Walsh (9 balls)	4
M V Fleming run out (Simmons/Dillon) (26 balls, 3 fours)	33
D R Brown not out (1 ball, 1 four)	4
Extras (b 1, lb 16, w 5, nb 9)	31
Total (7 wkts, 48.1 overs)	239

R D B Croft and D W Headley did not bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-14 (Stewart 3), 2-89 (Stewart 44), 3-107 (Stewart 51), 4-107 (Thorpe 0), 5-152 (Thorpe 26), 6-165 (Thorpe 34), 7-235 (Thorpe 66)

BOWLING: Walsh 9.1-1-39-1 (nb 2, w 1, 4 fours; 6-1-16-0, 3.1-0-23-1), Rose 10-0-36-1 (nb 1, w 1, 2 fours; 6-0-21-1, 4-0-15-0), Dillon 6-0-36-0 (1 fours, 4-0-16-0, 1-0-13-0, 1-0-7-0); Simmons 4-0-25-0 (nb 3, w 2, 2 fours, 2-0-12-0, 1-0-4-0, 1-0-9-0); Lewis 9-0-51-1 (nb 4, w 1, 1 six, 3 fours, 7-0-29-1, 2-0-22-0); Hooper 10-0-35-2 (nb 2, 1 four, one spell)

Score after 15 overs: 62-1
Match award: G P Thorpe
Tournament award: C L Hooper

Umpires: K T Francis (Sri Lanka) and C J Mitchley (South Africa). Third umpire: B C Cooray (Sri Lanka)

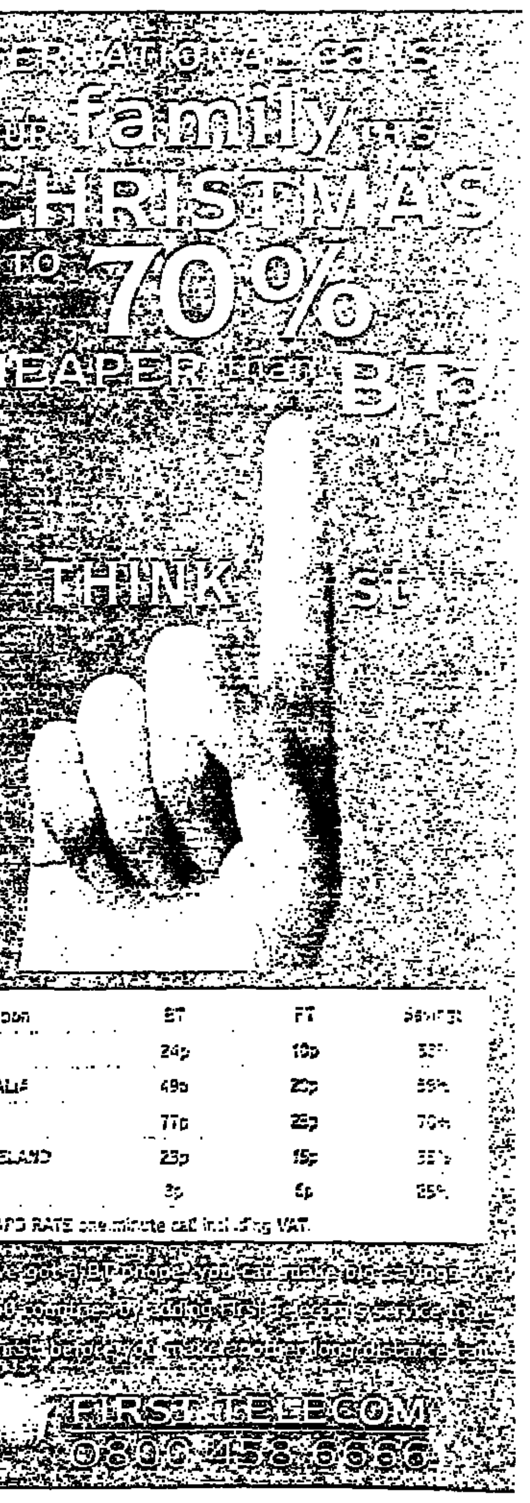
☐ *Compiled by Bill Frindall, Cricinfo*

MacLaurin puts case for new television deal

LORD MacLAURIN, the chairman of the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB), has asked the Government to consider its case for reducing the number of Test matches listed for terrestrial television (Alan Lee writes).

The ECB submission is based on the inequity of listing an entire Test series, compared with the FA Cup final or the Derby. Under the Broadcasting Act adopted last year, the ECB is unable to offer exclusive rights to any Test match to satellite television.

Unless some, or all, of the Tests are de-listed, the game will face a severe financial shortfall when television contracts are renegotiated next year.



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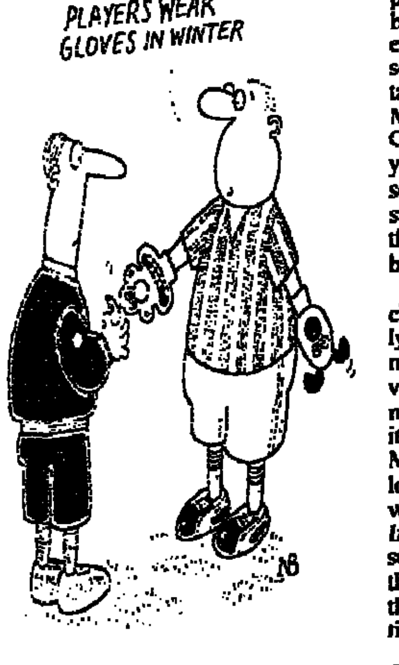


WHY NOT? LOTS OF PLAYERS WEAR GLOVES IN WINTER

LYNNE TRUSS

There was a time, of course, when the phrase point-and-click could refer only to primitive Xhosa people watching a bird fly overhead. Nowadays, however, it means something terribly sophisticated. It means frantic tap-tap virtual shopping in the Chelsea Megastore less than a week before Christmas, saying urgently: "Yes, yes, I'll take anything you've got," scrabbling through your wallet for suitable credit cards and praying that the modem doesn't disconnect before the transaction is complete.

It doesn't help, having a capricious modem. Mine has a criminally short attention span, which means it's forever ripping me out of virtual worlds just as I'm making myself at home. To be fair, however, it seemed to enjoy the Chelsea Megastore. It not only helped me to locate it (the work of at least an hour when there are 1,989,882 sites on the Internet featuring the words "Chelsea", "Football" or "Club"), but also then stayed faithfully connected all through my browsing in the "stationary" (sic) department and also "Home and bedroom". Point, click! Point, click! What fun we had. This beats traipsing round the shops.

But this cosy illusion was a fool's paradise, as usual. Just as I was saying "I'll take the pens and the wall clock! *The Times* will pay!" I found myself jerked from the brink. A "command structure failure" intervened, rather like a fire alarm, and I was bundled empty-handed outside into the grit and buses on Fulham Road. After all that. "Command syntax is not correct," I was told. "Parameters required by the system were not passed in. Please report this error to the shop administrator." Oh bugger, I said, with my hands in my pockets. So near and yet so far.

God, I hate the Internet. The commitment is so one-sided. You invest hours of patience and good humour in it, as if queuing for an exhibition at the Tate, but, when you finally reach the front, all you find is an unapologetic sign that says: "Bear with us! Exhibition site ready soon!" The hours I've spent trustingly cleaning my keyboard with finger and spittle just don't bear thinking about. If you really tried to shop for Christmas by this method you'd shoot yourself by the end.

For example, connect to the official Website *http://www.fa-carling.com*, and what happens? After a long-ish wait (in which you can clean W, E, R, T, Y and U) it will give you a rather promising "merchandise" choice. Hoorah. Click it and polish H, J, K and L. An array of Premiership football jerseys appears on screen. Good. Light-headed with success, click "Spurs" and get down to those stubborn stains on the function keys. And what does it say when connected? It says: "Catalogue for Tottenham Hotspur under construction for the 1997-98 season." And that's all.

"But this *is* the 1997-98 season!" you cry. "Moreover, it is Christmas and I have my heart set on buying a White Hart Lane mousemat for the man who has everything!" But you can't argue with brickdust and pneumatic drills. I try Chelsea by this new route and find it likewise under construction, which is odd, since it was open for business an hour ago. I click Arsenal, Liverpool, Southampton, Barnsley, Coventry — all the same story. They must all have the same builder. Wimbledon is cancelling outstanding orders "due to a lack of stock at Selhurst Park", which in my heightened emotional state strikes me as the saddest news I have ever heard.

Everton was open for business but wasn't accepting credit card numbers yet. You had to give them your phone number and wait till they rang you. Typical. I thanked the modem for its forbearance and hung up. I wasn't desperate enough to buy something from Everton, even to justify the three hours' investment. I could have driven half-way to Goodison Park in that time. And I'd bought nothing but disappointment. However, my keyboard looked absolutely lovely. Which was nice.

EQUESTRIANISM: FRENCH NEWCOMER WINS JUMP-OFF TO TAKE CHRISTMAS CRACKER STAKES

Caumont leaves world's best trailing

By Jenny MacArthur

XAVIER CAUMONT, ranked No 165 in the world and competing in Great Britain for the first time, upset the formbook at the Olympia showjumping championships yesterday when he and his mare, Baladine du Mesnil, outjumped a host of Europe's top partnerships to win the Christmas Cracker Stakes, the main event of the afternoon.

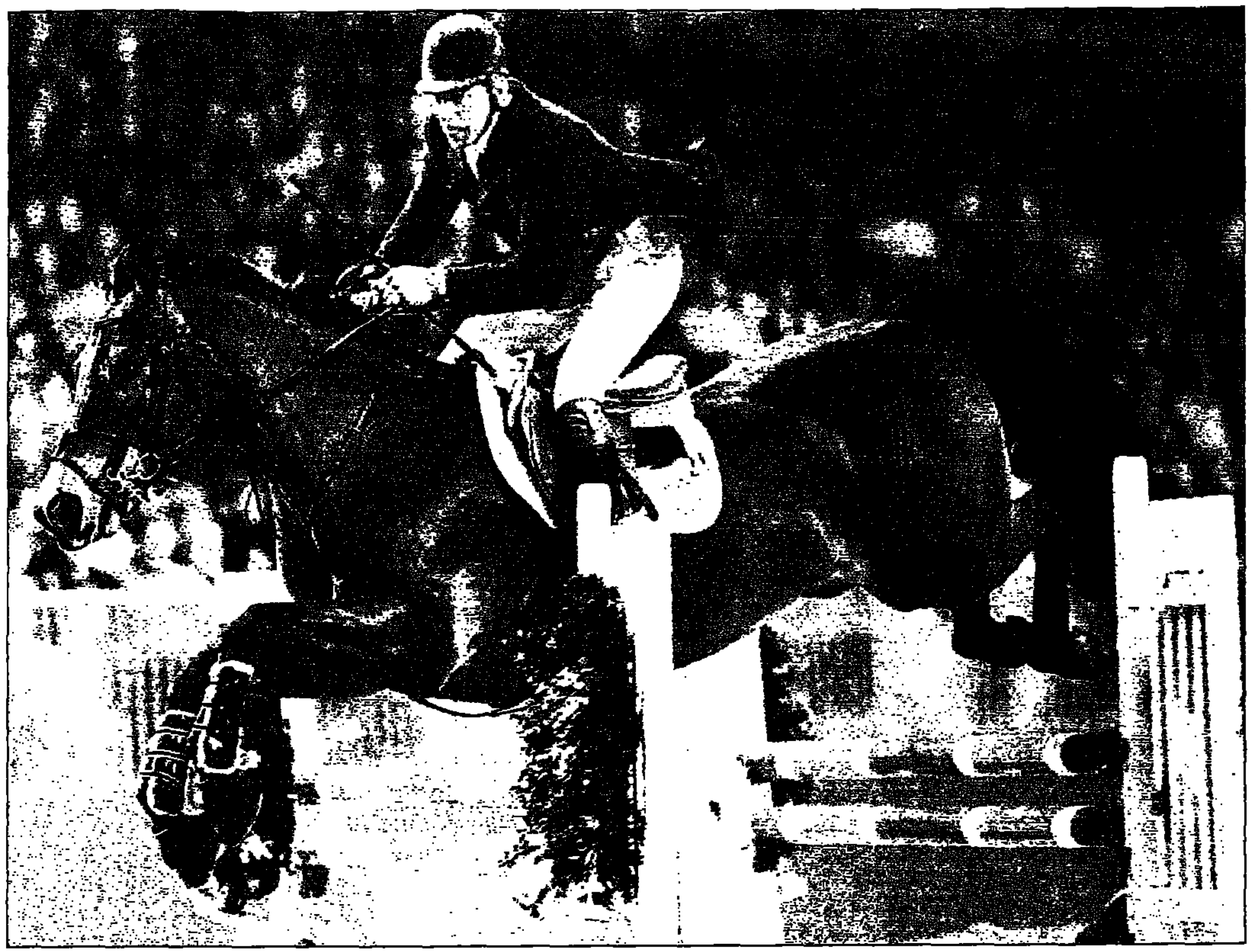
The Frenchman, 42, one of only two riders in a 32-strong field to go clear over a demanding course, had the satisfaction of relegating Ludger Beerbaum, the European champion, to second place, on Sprehe Rush On, and Franke Sloothaak, the world champion, to third, on San Patrignano Cassini.

RESULTS

THE CHRISTMAS CRACKER. 1, Baladine Du Mesnil (X Caumount, Fr) 0 in 37.52; 2, Sprehe Rush On (L Beerbaum, Ger) 8 in 30.79; 3, San Patrignano Cassini (F Sloothaak, Ger) 3 (in first round). **The Holly Pairs Relay:** 1, Santa's Echo (T Stockdale, GB) and Comer (W Funnell, GB) 53.56; 2, Hester (A Fernadez Duran, Sp) and Jewel's Idaem (P Raymakers, Holl) 53.90; 3, Virtual Village JJ (N Skelton, GB) and Virtual Village Elton (M Whitaker, GB) 57.43. **The Christmas Tree Stakes:** 1, Virtual Village Welham (J Whitaker, GB) 0 in 29.99; 2, Virtual Village Two Step (M Whitaker) 0 in 30.06; 3, T'Aime (P Charles, Ire) 0 in 30.86

"She is *formidable*," Caumont said of his eight-year-old mare, who he has had since she was six months old. The same might be said of her rider. Caumont, whose name had barely been whispered on the international scene six months ago, jumped in his first World Cup show in Prague in September, where he and Baladine were fifth in the qualifier.

Earlier this month, Patrick Caron, the France team manager, sent him to the Seville show to gain more experience. Caumont, who has a stud in the southwest of France and has made his name bringing on young horses, promptly won the World Cup qualifier there. The success gave him last-minute entry to Olympia and the chance to compete, for the first time, alongside nine of the top ten riders in the world rankings.



Skelton, on Virtual Village JJ, clears a fence during the pairs relay event at Olympia yesterday. Photograph: Julian Herbert/Allsport

In recognition of this high-calibre field and determined to avoid a repeat of the marathon 16-horse jump-off on the opening night, Bob Ellis, the course designer, had built a big, technical course for the opening round of the competition yesterday.

The first 12 riders, including the Whitaker brothers, made mistakes. John Whitaker, on Virtual Village Grannusch, incurred four faults at the upright fence No 7, one of the most infuential fences on the course. Michael Whitaker, his younger brother, had four faults at fences No 3 and No 9a. Nick Skelton and Showtime, also winners for Britain on the opening day, retired after incurring eight faults early on.

It was left to Beerbaum, the 1992 Olympic champion, to show how the course should be jumped. His superb clear round on Sprehe Rush On was acclaimed as if it were the winning one, but Caumont, undaunted, then produced a second, superbly-judged clear round.

In the jump-off, Beerbaum, the first to go, hit the last two fences. Caumont, busy warming up, had not watched him, but was told as he entered the ring that a slow clear round or only one fence down would be sufficient to win. Negotiating the shortened six-fence course with the coolness of a seasoned international, he went clear.

The Whitakers' flying start to the show in the Christmas Tree Stakes on Thursday night had the 6,000-strong crowd in the Grand Hall stamping their approval. John Whitaker, the bookmers' favourite for the Volvo World Cup qualifier today, produced a lightning-fast round on the 17-year-old Virtual Village Welham to finish the 16-horse jump-off 0.07sec ahead of his brother on Virtual Village Two Step. Peter Charles, of Ireland, the former European champion, took third place on his prolific winner, T'Aime.

☐ William Fox-Pitt, winner of a team gold and an individual bronze medal at the Open European three-day event championships in September, was presented with the British Equestrian Writers' Association's trophy for the Equestrian personality of the year at Olympia yesterday. His horse, Cosmopolitan, was named the British Equestrian Insurance Brokers' event horse of the year.

Talking Horse, page 39

SPORT IN BRIEF

Williams triumphs in power struggle

■ **SNOOKER:** Rex Williams called for "unity and harmony" last night after emerging successful in his power struggle with Ian Doyle, the sport's most influential manager (Phil Yates writes). Williams had opposed the re-election of Mark Wildman, his vice-chairman, and Jim Chambers to the board of the World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association (WPBSA) at the annual general meeting in London. Both men were perceived as Doyle supporters and opposed the dismissal of Jim McKenzie, the game's chief executive earlier this month. Neither was elected.

Wildman polled 23 votes for and 25 against while votes for Chambers were split 24 each. In the latter case, Williams used his casting vote to ensure Chambers did not regain his seat.

Clubs fined over brawl

■ **ICE HOCKEY:** Sheffield Steelers and Nottingham Panthers must pay fines totalling £2,650 after a brawl during their game at Sheffield Arena last Saturday. The coaches were fined £250 each for allowing players to leave the bench to join the altercation. Of the players, Corey Beaulieu, of Sheffield, charged with roughing and gross misconduct, was fined a total of £700 and suspended for six matches.

Damaging split healed

■ **RUGBY LEAGUE:** Six months of negotiations between the Australian Rugby League (ARL) and the breakaway Superleague were concluded successfully in Sydney yesterday, bringing to an end a dispute estimated to have cost £320 million. The two leagues will unite to form a 20-team competition next year, when Great Britain will face a full Australian national side for the first time since 1994.

Kewell proves a jewel

■ **FOOTBALL:** Harry Kewell, the teenage Leeds United forward, scored after two minutes of sudden-death extra time yesterday to give Australia a 1-0 win over Uruguay and a place in the final of the Confederations Cup. Kewell's left-footed goal, from 25 yards, earned Australia a meeting with Brazil, 2-0 winners over the Czech Republic, in the final tomorrow.

Fine returns rewarded

■ **SQUASH:** Peter Marshall and Sue Wright completed remarkable returns to form in 1997 by taking the No 1 positions on the new England ranking lists issued by the Squash Rackets Association yesterday. Marshall, who was out of the game for two years with chronic fatigue syndrome, displaced his friend, Simon Parke; Wright took over from Cassandra Jackman.

Snow too hot for Bray

■ **REAL TENNIS:** Julian Snow, of Great Britain, won three sets out of four in the first leg of the British Land world championship eliminator against Chris Bray, his compatriot, yesterday. The winner of the best-of-nine sets contest will play another Briton, Mike Gooding, in the spring to establish who will challenge Rob Fahey, of Australia.

ICE SKATING

Lipinski aims to get back on her feet

From Angela Court in Munich

WITH the Winter Olympic Games less than eight weeks away, a handful of the world's leading figure skaters will be seeking to establish themselves this weekend at the ISU Champions Series Final here. The competitors have qualified through various internationals and, while the winners will leave richer (a gold medal-winner gets $50,000, which is about £30,000), the honour in Munich far overshadows the money.

Attention in the women's event will centre on Tara Lipinski, of the United States, who, in March, became the youngest world champion at 14 but has yet to win this season.

Lipinski: loss of form

In Skate America and Trophée Lalique internationals, she could manage only second place behind Michelle Kwan, her fellow American, and Laetitia Hubert, of France, respectively.

Kwan and Hubert have withdrawn because of injury, leaving Lipinski an easier task here. Her main challenge appears to come from Irina Slutskaya, twice the European champion, and Tanja Szewczenko, of Germany, the 1994 world bronze medal-winner.

For the men, this competition will provide the final pre-Olympic meeting between Elvis Stojko, of Canada, the world champion, and the 1996 world champion, Todd Eldredge, of the United States.

Pasha Grishuk, the European, Olympic and world champion, and Evgeny Platov, of Russia, are expected to lead the ice dance line-up, while the pairs skaters, Mandy Wötzel and Ingo Steuer, of Germany, will hope to build on the world title that they won in March.

However, the pair attracting most interest here are Xue Shen and Hongbo Zhao, of China. Yet to break into the world's top ten, they have already beaten several higher-ranked couples to qualify.

CRICKET: WOMEN HAVE CHANCE TO REBUILD THEIR CONFIDENCE

Sri Lanka offer easier challenge

From Thrasy Petropoulos in Ghaziabad

THE omens were never good for the England women cricketers in Nagpur after the pilot of the aircraft carrying them from Bombay had taken two attempts to locate the runway. Australia then produced an aggressive and near-faultless display to inflict on England their first defeat in this World Cup.

As if to add insult to injury, after a 2½-hour delay to their flight out of Nagpur, the pilot decided both the England and Australia squads had taken too long to arrive from their hotel and was ready to depart with the players stranded on the runway. Only the intervention of the Indian-born Australian doctor travelling with the squad changed the pilot's mind.

Certainly, during their stopover here in Ghaziabad before the quarter-final match in Chandigarh against Sri Lanka tomorrow, the England players could not their hide relief at being finished with Nagpur. Defeat knocked the team sideways: nothing had prepared them for the pace of Catherine Fitzpatrick, nor he professionalism of the opposition.

Sri Lanka, however, should hold no terrors and a semi-final place in Madras on December 26 is more or less assured, almost certainly against New Zealand, who play their quarter-final match against Ireland in Bombay on December 23.

It would be wrong at this stage for England to panic and change their approach. They have some talented players and though the bowling has been disappointing at times, it is important to note how far superior Australia are to any other side on view here. Perhaps, more than anything, the England squad lacks the athleticism that is so obvious a feature of Australia's success.

A quarter-final in Chandigarh, followed by a semi-final in Madras, is not a bad draw for England. The alternatives were matches in Lucknow and Guwahati, in the north-east of the country, where many of the players who are on this tour were confined to their hotel rooms in 1995 after an incident with a gun in the hotel bar. Before the tournament, Australia lodged an official complaint about the prospect of playing in Guwahati and have declared that they are unwilling to travel there. In all probability, though, they will have little choice in the matter.

The incessant travel has left its mark on the England squad. More than a hint of weariness is creeping in and, as Christmas beckons, this is probably the hardest time for many of the players. There are few grumbles, however, and Christmas in Madras is a good deal more appetising than being fprced to spend it in Guwahati.

The most intriguing of the quarter-finals promises to be that between India and South Africa in Patna. The South Africans are short of experience, but high on talent, as they showed during their narrow defeat by England in a rain-affected match in Hyderabad. Much depends on how they cope with India's spinners.

ENGLAND (probable): K Smithies (captain), J Cassar, C Edwards, J Britin, B Daniels, S Metcalfe, K Leng, M Reynard, C Connor, S Redfern, C Taylor

QUARTER-FINALS: Today: Australia v Holland, Lucknow. Tomorrow: England v Sri Lanka, Chandigarh. Dec 22: South Africa v India, Patna. Dec 23: Ireland v New Zealand, Bombay

Smith takes over as Hampshire captain

ROBIN SMITH, the former England batsman, was yesterday appointed as the Hampshire captain for next season. Shaun Udal, the off spinner, is the vice-captain.

Smith, 34, said: "At this stage of my career, I have needed the extra challenge and I only hope I can bring success." Hampshire also announced the signing of Alex and Zac Morris, brothers who played for Yorkshire.

David Millns, 32, the fast bowler, has been awarded a benefit year in 1999 by Leicestershire. Millns made his debut in 1990 and was capped the next year.

Despite a fine century by Graham Napier, the first of their NatWest-sponsored tour, England Under-19 had to hang on against South African Students in Port Elizabeth for their fourth draw in four matches.

Set 264 to win in a minimum of 63 overs, England were never in the hunt once Stephen Peters, the acting captain, was given out caught at the wicket down the leg side despite the ball clearly coming off his pad.

Napier, 17, of Essex, brought up his century with a fierce square cut to the boundary. When he was eighth out for 110 with the total 156, Jonathan Powell and Joe Tucker held on for 12 overs to secure the draw.

BOXING

Holyfield forced to lower his demands

By Srikumar Sen, Boxing Correspondent

NEGOTIATORS for Lennox Lewis hold the strongest hand in the three-party talks to be held this weekend at the offices of Don King in Florida that will try to find a way round obstacles delaying the unification bout between Lewis, the World Boxing Council champion, and Evander Holyfield, who holds the World Boxing Association and International Boxing Federation belts.

The discussions had stalled because of the high demands of Holyfield and King, but they will have to compromise if they want the bout to take place. Lewis is well-placed to wait for the right terms, but Holyfield and King do not have time on their side.

If Holyfield cannot agree terms, he has to face either Henry Akinwande or Vaughn Bean. As Holyfield wants to retire as undisputed champion, making the bout with Lewis the last contest of his career, he does not intend to meet Akinwande or Bean — in which case, he could be stripped of his titles.

The bout could still be staged with only Lewis's title at stake, but neither champion is in favour of such a solution. Therefore, Holyfield may have to take a cut in the $35 million purse that he is seeking. King, who must act in Holyfield's best interests or face losing his right to promote the bout, must trim the demands that he is making on Lewis. King has said that he is prepared to pay Lewis $10 million (about £6 million) for the bout and give the champion's promotion company, Panix, a stake in his business, the kind of partnership that King had with Frank Warren.

In return, the American promoter wants 50 per cent of Lewis, who has always said he would work with King if he did not want "an arm and a leg". The champion can now hardly be expected to give King half of himself.

Jim Thomas, representing Holyfield at the talks, said that he had a figure to put to King and was not going home until the deal was done. He also said that if King holds up the proceedings, he and Holyfield would take a more active role in the negotiations.

The deal must be signed this month to allow HBO, the cable television company, sufficient time to make arrangements for the bout to be shown on TVKO, its pay-per-view outlet, on March 6.

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm) L	Depth (cm) U	Conditions Piste	Conditions Off-p	Runs to resort	Weather (5pm)	°C	Last snow
AUSTRIA								
Kitzbuhel	5	30	fair	heavy	art	cloud	6	15/12
(42/60 lifts and 43/56 pistes: very warm weather)								
Obergurgl	70	110	good	varied	good	cloud	2	15/12
(Very good skiing with 16 lifts open)								
FRANCE								
Avoriaz	35	60	fair	heavy	slushy	cloud	3	12/12
(Warmer weather softening snow)								
Flaine	20	110	fair	heavy	slushy	cloud	6	14/12
(Eight pistes open with warm weather softening lower slopes)								
Tignes	40	130	good	heavy	worn	cloud	1	19/12
(Best skiing on higher pistes: quite windy)								
Val d'Isère	40	70	fair	varied	art	cloud	4	17/12
(34 lifts open: good skiing on upper slopes)								
Val Thorens	40	90	fair	varied	fair	fair	1	13/12
(Very windy conditions causing few lift closures)								
ITALY								
Cervinia	30	160	good	powder	good	cloud	-2	18/12
(30cm fresh snow: great skiing available)								
SWITZERLAND								
C Montana	5	40	fair	varied	closed	wind	1	18/12
(Best skiing on upper slopes: 12/41 lifts open)								
Klosters	30	90	good	varied	fair	fair	3	14/12
(Mostly good skiing: 25 lifts open)								
Saas Fee	30	335	good	powder	closed	cloud	1	19/12
(Some fresh snow but high winds in area)								
Verbier	5	100	good	varied	closed	fine	0	14/12
(Strong winds keeping mont fort closed)								
UNITED STATES								
C Butte	70	70	good	varied	good	fine	-14	14/12
(Very good skiing available, cold weather)								

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain. L - lower slopes; U - upper; art - artificial.

FOR THE RECORD

ATHLETICS

MELBOURNE: **Zatopek Classic** (selected results; Australia unless stated): **Men: 10,000m:** 1, L Kipkosgei (Ken) 27min 29.44sec; 2, J [illegible] (Ken) 27.30.24; 3, F Johnston (NZ) 28.07.80. **Women: 400m:** 1, C Freeman 51.67sec; 2, S Andrews 52.02; 3, L Naylor 52.95. **Triple jump:** 1, [illegible] 13.04m; 2, [illegible] (Aus) 12.80; 3, S Avery (NZ) 12.61. **Discus:** 1, B Foumuna (NZ) 63.16m; 2, L-M Vizaniari 59.54; 3, [illegible] 55.90. **Shot:** 1, L-M Vizaniari 15.57m; 2, B Foumuna (NZ) 15.08; 3, [illegible] 14.49. **Hammer:** 1, C [illegible] 62.42m; 2, B McNaughton 58.32; 3, K [illegible] 55.40.

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL CUP: Semi-final, second leg: Leicester Riders 90 London Towers 84 (Leicester win 184-162 on aggregate and meet Thames Valley Tigers in the final).

EUROPEAN LEAGUE: Group A: Efes Pilsen Istanbul (Tur) 71 CSKA Moscow (Russ) 68; Real Madrid (Sp) 78 Limoges (Fr) 62; Olympiakos (Gr) 71 Maccabi Tel Aviv (Isr) 76. **Group B:** Benetton Treviso (It) 85 Croatia Split (Cro) 75. **Group C:** Ulker Istanbul (Tur) 66 Kinder Bologna (It) 68. **Group D:** Alba Berlin (Ger) 60 AEK Athens (Gr) 67; Barcelona (Sp) 63 Hapoel Jerusalem (Isr) 65; Paris Saint-Germain (Fr) 65 Cibona Zagreb (Cro) 71.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): **Wednesday:** Indiana 97 New York 80; Boston 88 Toronto 83; Washington 86 Miami 74; Atlanta 94 Cleveland 82; Charlotte 99 Milwaukee 90; New Jersey 105 Detroit 101; Minnesota 94 Philadelphia 90; Chicago 104 Los Angeles Lakers 83; San Antonio 98 Vancouver 87. **Thursday:** Orlando 73 Utah 85; Dallas 75 Phoenix 89; Seattle 113 Denver 106; Los Angeles Clippers 82 Golden State 78.

BOWLS

PRESTON: Saga world indoor championship: **Singles: First-round draw:** H Duff (Scot) v L Gillett (Eng); I Taylor (Aus) v P Foster (Scot); M McMahon (Aus) v N Kennedy (HK); I Schubach (Aus) v J Greenslade (Wales); A Allcock (Eng) v N Booth (Ire); J Price (Wales) v R Marshall (Scot); G Harlow (Eng) v G McCloy (Ire); R Corsie (Scot) v R Newman (Eng); M King (Eng) v S Glasson (Aus); G Smith (Eng) v L [illegible] (Jersey); R Brassey (NZ) v Canadian qualifier; D Gourlay (Scot) v B Jackson (Eng); W Richards (Eng) v M Galloway (NZ); S Rees (Wales) v J Henry (Ire); G Robertson (Scot) v A Welch (Guernsey); A Thomson (Eng) v R Weale (Wales). **Pairs: First-round draw:** A Allcock and M King (Eng) v D Harding and J Greenslade (Wales); M McMahon and S Glasson (Aus) v A [illegible] and G Grace (Eng); W Richards and G Harlow (Eng) v C Hogg and G McCloy (Ire); I Corsie and G Robertson (Scot) v J Henry and N Booth (Ire); D Gourlay and H Duff (Scot) v A Ross and A Marshall (Scot); S Rees and J Price (Wales) v R Brassey and M Galloway (NZ); I Schubach and I Taylor (Aus) v L [illegible] and A Welch (Channel Islands); G Smith and A Thomson (Eng) v N Kennedy (HK) and Canadian qualifier

CRICKET

Tour match

South Africa Students v England Under-19

PORT ELIZABETH (final day of four): South Africa Students drew with England Under-19

SOUTH AFRICA STUDENTS: First Innings 315-9 dec (D Moffat 130, G King 78; J C Powell 4 for 42)

Second Innings

D Moffat not out	72
J Henderson c Wilton b Grove	9
†A Jacobs st Wilton b Schofield	27
M Benfield not out	25
Extras (b 1, lb 6)	7
Total (2 wkts dec)	140

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-36, 2-86

BOWLING: Tucker 7-0-33-0; Grove 9-0-32-1; Gough 8-1-29-0; Schofield 6-0-33-1.

ENGLAND UNDER-19: First Innings 192

Second Innings

*S D Peters c Jacobs b Evans	5
I N Flanagan c Moffat b Evans	9
M A Gough c Jacobs b Kemp	2
G R Haywood c King b Love	10
G R Napier c Henderson b Love	110
G P Swann b Love	1
C P Schofield c Kemp b Evans	13
†N J Wilton b Evans	0
J C Powell not out	6
J T Tucker not out	3
Extras (lb 5, nb 2)	7
Total (8 wkts)	166

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-7, 2-20, 3-20, 4-70, 5-94, 6-150, 7-150, 8-156

BOWLING: Holmes 7-2-10-0; Evans 22-8-53-4; Kemp 3-1-7-1; Love 23-3-49-3; Albanie 7-1-34-0; Mfobo 5-2-8-0

Umpires: E Scholtz and G Cuddenbey

TOUR MATCH (first day of four). **Brisbane:** South Africans 242-7 (G Kirsten 79, H H Gibbs 54) v Australia A.

SHEFFIELD SHIELD (first day of four). **Hobart:** Victoria 180-9 dec (C Miller 4-67); Tasmania 51-3. **Adelaide:** South Australia 223-7 (D Webber 145, D Fitzgerald 57, S Cook 4-66) v New South Wales. **Perth:** Western Australia 184, Queensland 35-1

WOMEN'S WORLD CUP: Quarter-final draw: Today: Australia v Holland (at Lucknow). Tomorrow: England v Sri Lanka (Mohali). Monday: South Africa v India (Patna). Tuesday: New Zealand v Ireland (Bombay)

FOOTBALL

CONFEDERATIONS' CUP: Semi-finals: Brazil 2 Czech Republic 0; Australia 1 Uruguay 0 (aet) (both in Riyadh)

Thursday's late results

FAI HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Dundalk 0 Shamrock Rovers 0

FRENCH LEAGUE: Le Havre 1 Nantes 0; Metz 3 AS Monaco 0.

SPANISH LEAGUE: Valencia 1 Deportivo La Coruña 0.

GOLF

SYDNEY, Australia: Coolum Classic: *Leaders after two rounds (Australia unless stated):* 137: L Parsons 68, 69. 138: C Parry 70, 68. 140: R Allenby 70, 70; S Toorman 72, 68. 141: C Jones 73, 68. 142: R Byrd (US) 69, 73; E Boult (NZ) 71, 71; S Tait 72, 70; W Smith 69, 73. 143: P Lonard 71, 72; D Ecob 71, 72; R Willis 70, 73; K Druce 71, 72.

ICE HOCKEY

SUPERLEAGUE: Sheffield Steelers 4 Basingstoke Bison 4 (OT).

EXPRESS CUP: Manchester Storm 3 Ayr Scottish Eagles 4; Cardiff Devils 7 Nottingham Panthers 2.

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): **Wednesday:** New York Rangers 4 Florida 2; New York Islanders 4 Buffalo 0; Tampa Bay 2 Boston 0; Colorado 2 Detroit 2 (OT); Edmonton 0 Chicago 0 (OT); Vancouver 5 Phoenix 1; Toronto 6 Anaheim 2. **Thursday:** Washington 0 Florida 4; Ottawa 3 Carolina 2; Philadelphia 2 Boston 2 (OT); St Louis 4 New Jersey 4 (OT); Calgary 1 Dallas 2; Los Angeles 5 Toronto 2; San Jose 0 Vancouver 0 (OT)

RACKETS

QUEEN'S CLUB: Public schools championships: Renny Cup: Third round: H Paxton (Haileybury) bt T Bomford (Malvern) 15-3, 17-18, 15-6; R Cowley (Marlborough) bt M Stirbl (Tonbridge) 13-15, 15-8, 17-14; A Loudon (Eton) bt J Thompstone (Malvern) 15-3, 15-5; H Nash (Charterhouse) bt J Davis (Tonbridge) 15-9, 15-4; O Rigby (Wellington) bt M Bicklord (Marlborough) 15-5, 16-14; J Baker (Malvern) bt A Bird (Marlborough) 5-15, 15-4, 15-12; A Andjel (Harrow) bt J Strading (Tonbridge) 15-10, 15-6; M Chetwood (Marlborough) bt S Cowley (Cheltenham) 15-11, 15-9.

RUGBY UNION

THE TIMES EUROPEAN STUDENTS CHAMPIONSHIPS: Pool one: Swansea University 22 Trinity College, Dublin 5 (match abandoned after 60min); Durham University 43 Roma University 0. Pool two: Toulouse University 35 University College, Dublin 3; Northumbria University 19 Loughborough University 13. Pool four: Bristol University 13 Cardiff Medicals 8; University College, Cork 19 Oxford University 15

SKIING

VAL D'ISERE, France: World Cup giant slalom: Women: 1, D Compagnoni (It) 2min 18.83sec; 2, A Meissnitzer (Austria) 2:18.93; 3, L Piccard (Fr) 2:20.02; 4, S Schuster (Austria) 2:20.37; 5, S Nef (Switz) 2:20.39; 6, S Vieru (It) 2:20.55; 7, A Flemmen (Nor) 2:20.72; 8, A Santolaria (Sp) 2:21.02; 9, P Wiberg (Swe) 2:21.27; 10, A Wachter (Austria) 2:21.29.

LA PLAGNE, France: World Cup freestyle moguls: Men: 1, J Moseley (US) 26.28pts; 2, J Cusson (Can) 25.89; 3, S Rochon (Can) 25.38; 4, J-L Brassard (Can) 25.23; 5, J Ronnback (Swe) 24.93; 6, P Rousseau (Can) 24.83. Women: 1, A Bolbjerg (Den) 23.60; 2, C Gilg (Fr) 23.45; 3, K Traa (Nor) 23.38; 4, K Ringstad (Can) 23.37; 5, T Mittermayer (Ger) 23.11; 6, A Battelle (US) 23.02.

KONTIOLATHI, Finland: World Cup biathlon: Men: 1, J Wuestenfeld (Ger) 26min 21.3sec; 2, R Gross (Ger) 26:30.0; 3, S Fischer (Ger) 26:35.4; 4, V Maigourov (Russ) 26:38.3; 5, S Rojkov (Russ) 26:42.1; 6, F Andresen (Nor) 26:49.6. Women: 1, U Disl (Ger) 23:42.2sec; 2, M Zelner (Ger) 23:45.9; 3, S Ichmouratova (Russ) 23:46.3; 4, A Volkova (Russ) 23:47.1; 5, G Koukleva (Russ) 24:01.0; 6, O Petrova (Ukr) 24:01.4.

SNOOKER

STOCKPORT: United Kingdom Tour event: Quarter-finals: C Shade (Scot) bt P Williams (Wales) 5-4; M Fenton (Wales) bt D Walker (Eng) 5-3; A Rosa (Eng) bt B Mapstone (Eng) 5-0; A Bolsover (Eng) bt M Roughan (Eng) 5-3. Semi-finals: Fenton bt Shade 5-2; Bolsover bt Rosa 5-3. Final: Fenton bt Bolsover 6-4

TENNIS

QUEEN'S CLUB: WTA Christmas tournament: Quarter-finals: A Wainwright (Essex) bt C Smith (Hertfordshire) 6-1, 6-4; J White (Northamptonshire) bt J Keene (Warwickshire) 4-6, 6-4, 6-1; L Ogan (Warwickshire) bt L Herbert (Hertfordshire) 7-5, 6-4; J Choudhury (Cambridgeshire) bt L Wood (Warwickshire) 6-4, 7-6. Semi-finals: Wainwright bt White 6-3, 6-2; Choudhury bt Ogan 6-2, 6-3. Final: Choudhury bt Wainwright 6-3, 6-3.

صحنا من الأصل

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Bent Turnstile Man obsolete

DANNY BAKER

The news that football attendances are up for the tenth consecutive season is greeted by the shallow modern observer as proof positive that a rainbow now sits around the shoulders of our national game. Yet those of us who know the industry *from the inside will see this* grim statistic as one more example of the shedding of its great and treasured traditions, for, if official attendances are steadily rising, it can only mean one thing: we are in the twilight years of that tireless and reassuring animal, the Bent Turnstile Man.

There was a time when no club was too big or too small that it didn't have within its set-up a small group of independent and hard-working employees — often ex-pros themselves — who were, as my father would put it, "very approachable". It wasn't so much that their door was always open, but, thanks to their philosophy, the club's was. For these were the Bent Turnstile Men. No matter how much ticket prices rose, no matter from where in a ground you wished to view the match, no matter how "sold out" a fixture was, the Bent Turnstile Men could always sort something out.

My earliest memory of attending *Millwall is* of being lifted high over the turnstiles, week in, week out, as my dad slipped the grinning old boy in the booth a fraction of the advertised entrance fee. Under the keen stewardship of these wily and reasonable venturers, huge sections of the public were allowed to vanish from the balance sheet like the unemployed at election time or listeners from Radio Three.

Indeed, despite self-satisfied PR about growing gates, I honestly feel the amount of people watching professional football has never been lower. The old-time Bent *Turnstile Man has been replaced* with revolting oily bow-tied sales assistants with no feeling for football who sit at generic laser-printing computer screens that can cough out anything from theatre tickets to prescriptions for penicillin. Approach one of these efficient but naive drones with a wink and three £1 coins and they react like Drew Barrymore does when she first sees E.T.

Perhaps my favourite tale of turnstile initiative came from a supporter of Manchester City who took the whole theme of private enterprise to a heroic and magnificent extreme.

During City's last spell in the lower leagues, one of their Easter fixtures took them to Home Park, Plymouth. On arrival at the away supporters' end, my friend noticed that only two entrances were open — both at the far right of the ground and both with considerable queues. Outraged at this slice of West Country sloth, he sought to alert the powers of Plymouth to the inconvenience and danger that they were creating and began hammering at the door of a *turnstile on the left. To his surprise*, the door was not bolted and swung open invitingly. Home Park yawned before him.

It is here that a lesser intellect might have simply seen the invitation for the slice of sheer goose it was and, with an energetic bound, entered the arena. But not Clive. Sorry, I mean, Mr X. He, like Bill Gates and Percy "Cats Eyes" Shaw before him, *studied the market and* saw a vacancy for a bright young chancer. He climbed on to the counter, removed his scarf, sat himself down on the opposite side and announced the pitch open for business. Within ten minutes, and he insists minimal advertising, his post had taken more than £150. So great was the trade that he even smiled cheerily whenever one of his unknowing fellow Mancs called him "yokel" and "bumpkin".

His tariffs, it seems, were flexible and rather than change a twenty with an already trousered tenner, he would accept whatever loose *shrapnel his customer had in his* pocket. The only time he aroused the suspicion of onlookers that he was not a *bone fide* representative of Plymouth Argyle FC was when he began enjoying the gag a little too much and allowed access to a group of pretty girls in exchange for the bag of satsumas they had with them. Eventually, he decided enough was good as a feast and, during an appropriate lull, walked in and mingled with the mob while suddenly noticing how little he cared about the result.

Naturally, he did not show up on the official attendance record that day, likewise his hundred of customers nor the hundreds of thousands of others all across Britain over the years. So when football authorities start crowing this week about crowds "flocking back" and the triumph of the antiseptic commercial new ways over outdated practices, they are, in fact, merely celebrating the final victory of The System over The Supporter. The truth is there may not be more supporters in attendance, simply fewer coming in undetected by the official radar. The human element has been resolved. Thus, when the *figures say 12,478, 12,478 it probably* was. Unless, of course, clubs themselves massage the numbers. But why would they want to do that?

☐ **Danny Baker is on Talk Radio (1053-1089am) every Saturday from 5.30pm.**

RUI VIEIRA

Tottenham's appointment of Christian Gross continued the English game's fad for overseas coaches

Continental codswallop

As far back as, well it was only a couple of weeks ago actually, I trumpeted the opinion that Christian Gross was the pin whose appointment would forever burst the bubble on the idiotic notion that continental managers generally knew something that British managers didn't. Now it seems that that piece has become the standard work on the subject for Fleet Street.

Last weekend — with Arsenal's paper tigers ominously exposed yet again, Chelsea's inconsistent fops running round in pleasing but pointless circles and Tottenham's latest slapstick fiasco — must have been the sweetest of George Graham's or Ron Atkinson's, *or come to that, David* Pleat's life. For, varying though the Brit manager's level of skills may be, how galling must the last couple of years have been for them, the Big Idea being that modern football can only be glimpsed if masterminded courtesy of some genius-on-paper from the EU. You know the ballyhoo: Had a success in the French league, Italian league, Swiss league? Come to England, we've totally lost the plot! Bring your pals across too! After all, one league is pretty much like another, right? Football is football, isn't it? It's won and lost on paper, yes? I mean, you may not know what a match like Arsenal v Tottenham or Newcastle against Sunderland means, but passion's outa fashion Jack! You don't need heart, you need a reputation! It's all about method and technique, Monique! (Subject to contract and conditions, natch.)

Anyone who still clings to the hype about the inherent superior*ity of "abroad" need only to* ponder the mess at Highbury. Oh sure, they are playing some good football, but the wake-up call comes in a simple yes or no answer to the following questions. A: Is this the most expensive Arsenal side you've ever seen? and B: Is it the best? So what is Arsène Wenger all about? And if he was British and known to us *à la* Graeme Souness, wouldn't he be under a lot more pressure by now? Gullit meanwhile, while colourful, sexy and very Chelsea, is no more a managerial genius than, say, Steve Coppell.

There is, and always has been, only one nationality that can be widely relied on for success on these shores and that is the Scottish. Dalglish, Graham, Stein, Shankly, Ferguson, Charlton (let us not quibble over a few miles).

Good Lord, the only time the mighty Lions breathed the rare air of the top flight we were under the wing of John Docherty and Frank *McLintock. So, Man United are* going to walk the league and three clubs who might have been once considered serious competition lie tinkering on the towpath, distracted victims of a specious ideology and paying the price for knee-jerk reactions during the era of home soccer's self-loathing.

Chance to go down a bomb

A discussion heats up on The Most Dangerous Pitch In The World. An early leader is the pitch in Cornwall, which, if the officials aren't totally attentive, will become cut off by the tide that will, unless help arrives, wash the two teams out to sea. This is then trumped by the field in Derbyshire, which has a tree growing on the left wing. Many, apparently, is the head wound that has resulted from a reckless heads-down Giggs-style flyer by a forgetful No 11. This, in turn, gives way to an East *London venue, where two twisted* iron bars stick, Excalibur-style, from the turf inside the six-yard box, casually beckoning reminders of a foundry that once stood on the spot. Keen appreciation is shown of the Walsall goals that stand within four feet of a 60ft drop to railway lines, but all of these suddenly shrink into mere Chelsea-style whining when a flood of calls from ex-squaddies tell us of truly The Most Dangerous Pitch In The World. It is in western Germany and sits but a matter of feet above an underground Nazi munitions dump judged too temperamental to *excavate. The pitch is in almost* constant use, although players must not wear studs and the referee must not use a metallic whistle.

Reflecting on this unorthodox/suicidal park, I think about poor tortured Ian Wright, my favourite footballer these days. Perhaps here awaits the perfect Viking funeral for such a leathery old warrior. Rather than fade in the memory by *stepping down a division or going* to some morgue like Charlton, might it not be fitting if Ian were allowed to detonate this insane rectangle in one last outburst, stomping around until that famous Wright right boot hits the correct spot and *ka-boom!* The only alternative is to wind up like the dazed and struggling Garth Crooks. Surely not even Peter Schmeichel *would wish him that.*

Xmas break

I am off to submerge myself in glorious Christmas for two weeks, chums, and I do not intend to think, watch or converse about football one little bit. That is how I have always done things. I leave you with three predictions. By the time I return, Man Utd will be nine points clear. Christian Gross will have resigned, Clough-style, saying the whole thing was a big misjudgment and his wife thinks London stinks. Prince Naseem will have won in the fourth and have America under his sweaty waistband. By the time you read this, at least one of these will have been tested and by it you may judge the others. As usual, please, no wagering. Merry Christmas everyone.

Conflicting evidence that's driving me loco

The conflicting evidence I receive on whether a steam train is buried beneath the centre spot at Wembley Stadium makes the Louise Woodward trial read like an open and shut case. Most correspondents seem to think there is, but I am led to believe that these people simply want there to be a steam train under Wembley Stadium. The most consistent theme tells of a small locomotive that was used for ferrying much of the heavy timber and steel around the site during the period of the ground's construction. For reasons that vary from "high winds" to "industrial sabotage", this train one day became derailed and plummeted from its raised track into the pit beneath.

Quite what the "pit beneath" is nobody illuminates and we are left with the image that England's soccer showpiece was constructed atop the crater of West London's only sunken volcano. Anyhow, rather than attempt to lift the stricken engine back into business, somebody apparently took the decision to leave it there. More than one account also insists that the hapless driver — who was killed in the spill — was interned where he lay, though I must say I find the notion of any family giving their blessing to the old man being planted in the cab of his train under a football pitch unlikely to say the least.

The only concrete facts to have emerged from this inquiry have been made in passing and talk of the curse upon Birmingham City's home, St Andrew's. This is a copper-bottomed story that I have long been aware of and was recently taken so seriously by the club that they had an exorcism. The reason for the curse itself is not wildly interesting, but another, more radical, attempt at its lifting during the reign of Barry Fry certainly is. Apparently, the idea was floated that the traditional way to negate a curse upon property would be to place urine into the soil at the four corners of the pitch. When I asked Barry whether this had been done, he said that no action, however distasteful, had been overlooked in the attempt to lift the cloud over the sleeping giant of the Midlands.

When I further pressed him on who gave of their time, energy and urine to so aid the club, he merely raised an eyebrow, smiled inscrutably and suggested that his duties did not necessarily end with simply picking the team.

SAILING: SKIPPER FACES UP TO THE POSSIBILITY OF FAILURE

Dalton fights for his reputation

By Edward Gorman, Sailing Correspondent

THE all-female crew on *EF Education* were elated yesterday to have Grant Dalton, in *Merit Cup*, clearly visible just a couple of miles ahead of them in the Whitbread Round the World Race. Dalton himself was sounding like a man already contemplating failure.

The humiliation of the last leg — when Dalton got into Fremantle just ahead of the women — hit the Auckland-based skipper hard and undoubtedly shook his confidence in himself and his boat. This leg has been no less difficult for him. It has been dominated by upwind work, which has not suited his hull, the thinnest of the Farr boats in the fleet.

Throughout the constant changes in the running order, *Merit Cup* has remained fairly consistently in the bottom third, never producing either the speed or the strategy to challenge for the top three places. One can only imagine how worrying this has been for Dalton, who desperately needs a podium finish if he is to restore *Merit Cup's* credibility as a serious contender in this race.

Yesterday, in an e-mail written at a low point after the *Merit* team had been becalmed for eight hours, there was a hint in Dalton's fatalistic account that morale is beginning to suffer again on the yellow and white yacht, which was on almost every pundit's shortlist of pre-race favourites.

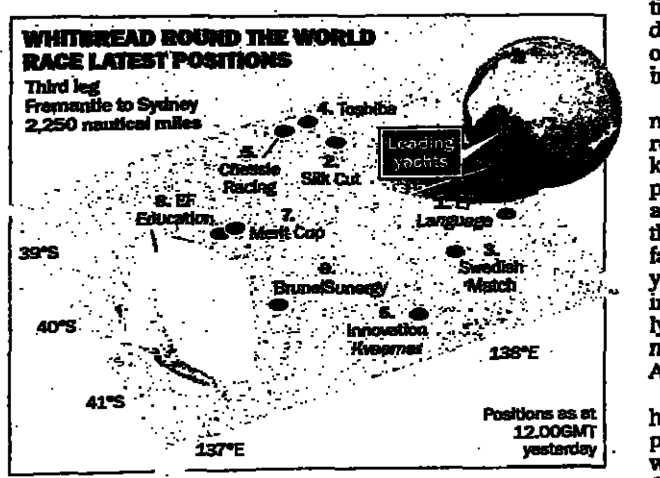
"Where will the wind come from first?" Dalton mused. "Probably the west and south, but when you are not moving at all, it's a little hard to say. With less than 900 miles to go, the first boat out of this hole will probably win the leg as there will be no time to catch up again. I've said it before, but in this race you do need an element of luck and it seems to be something that refuses to run with this boat.

"We had a terrible position sched this morning and are ready for an even worse one shortly — and this when we had almost got ourselves back on the front row and need a good leg to put the memories of the last leg behind us. We live in hope, but there is nothing to recommend this type of sailing when you really don't have any control on your future."

The worse thing about a bad performance in this Whitbread for Dalton is that it tends to downgrade his undoubted previous achievements in this event. His biggest success was last time out, when he skippered *New Zealand Endeavour* to a crushing win in the maxi class. But there were only four boats in it and some of Dalton's critics predicted that he would be "found out" this time round in a virtual one-design fleet and against some of the best grand prix sailors in the world.

To his credit, Dalton had no qualms about putting his reputation on the line, but he knows that, after a two-boat programme and a smooth and well-funded preparation, there will be no hiding a failure to match up. All is not yet lost, but Dalton's strategy in this race is already seriously out of kilter, bearing in mind that he planned to reach Auckland as overall leader.

With the fleet engulfed in high pressure yesterday, progress had stalled on the way into the Bass Strait. Paul Cayard, in *EF Language*, was again leading, but Lawrie Smith, in *Silk Cut*, was creeping up on him in second place.



DISTANCE TO FINISH (as at 1200GMT yesterday, with miles to Sydney): 1, EF Language (Swe) 813.2 miles; 2, Silk Cut (GB) 823.9; 3, Swedish Match (Swe) 825.1; 4, Toshiba (US) 826.6; 5, Chessie Racing (US) 828.4; 6, Innovation Kvaerner (Nor) 845.1; 7, Merit Cup (Monaco) 850.6; 8, EF Education (Swe) 852.0; 9, BrunelSunergy (Hol) 853.8.

SKIING: SEIZINGER CRASHES OUT IN PURSUIT OF WORLD CUP RECORD

Compagnoni gamble pays off

By Our Sports Staff

DEBORAH COMPAGNONI, of Italy, won her eighth successive women's World Cup giant-slalom in Val d'Isère yesterday after Katja Seizinger, of Germany, crashed out in the second run. Seizinger led after the first run and was poised to beat Jean-Claude Killy's 1967 record of winning six consecutive World Cup speed events.

"I took a risk in the second run and it paid off," Compagnoni said. "I did not make any great mistakes. Katja made a mistake and she paid for it." The Italian had a combined time of 2min 18.83sec. *Alexandra Meissnitzer*, of Austria, was second in 2min 18.93sec and Leila Piccard, of France, third in 2min 20.02sec.

Despite failing to finish, Seizinger still has a big lead in the overall standings. She has 743 points with her nearest rival, Hilde Gerg, of Germany, on 504. In the giant-slalom standings, Compagnoni increased her advantage over Meissnitzer. The Italian leads with 300 points and *Meissnitzer has 176.*

A men's World Cup downhill that had already been rescheduled to Val Gardena, in Italy, because of poor visibility at Val d'Isère last week was abandoned yesterday because of thick fog.

The race was called off after 12 of the 60 competitors had completed their runs. A thirteenth, Patrick Ortlieb, of Austria, was stopped by race officials halfway down the course. The race, which was to have been the third downhill of the men's season, had been delayed by nearly two hours and the course had been shortened by more than 300 metres because of thick mist at the top. As the competitors started to come down, the mist swirled down the mountain, causing lengthy delays between runs as officials skied the course to check visibility. A second men's downhill is scheduled for Val Gardena today.

Compagnoni celebrates her win at Val d'Isère

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CYCLING

Obree's world plan takes shape

By Peter Bryan

GRAEME OBREE finished a two-day series of trials behind closed doors at the Manchester Velodrome yesterday and returned home to Irvine, Ayrshire, "highly encouraged" by the first results.

Obree's monitored sessions were the first moves in his plan to regain the world one-hour record, which he has twice broken since 1993, from Chris Boardman.

When the results of the first day's tests were down-loaded, Obree's heart rate during a 25-minute trial was registering between 170 and 173 beats a minute. "Not as high as I can achieve on my stationary machine in the garage at home," he said, "but good for this time of the year, since I was using an old road bike."

The Scot's seriousness in returning to international competition could have added spice with the news that Boardman is considering a pursuiting comeback at the world track championships in France next year.

"I thought that might be one of the moves Chris would make," Obree, who is already pre-selected for the Scotland Commonwealth Games track team, said.

Obree, who builds his own bikes and trains without supervision, now has a personal trainer. Joe Beer, an international duathlon competitor from Bath, will guide the Scot's attempt on the one-hour record.

Obree will ride tomorrow in a ten-mile road time-trial near his Scottish home.

BOWLS

Champion faces daunting draw

By David Rhys Jones

HUGH DUFF, the defending champion, has been drawn to play Les Gillett, the winner of the recent International Open, in the first round of the Saga world indoor singles championship at Preston next month.

The draw has given the Scot an early chance to avenge his defeat by Gillett, who came through the Professional Bowls Association qualifier at Blackpool in September and proceeded to leave four world *champions* — including Duff — in his wake on his way to the Open title.

"It's a hard draw for me, but an even harder one for Hugh," a confident Gillett said yesterday. "He won't relish the thought of a repeat performance. I'm looking forward to returning to the portable rink and just hope I can find the sort of form I showed in October."

Andy Thomson, the No 2 seed, also has a hard draw. He takes on Robert Weale, the champion of Wales, who has yet to make his mark on the portable rink but is regularly one of the outstanding players in the home international series.

John Price, who looked impressive on his way to the Scottish Masters title at Coatbridge last week, is seeded modestly at No 12 and could set up an appetising encounter with Tony Allcock, twice the world champion — if he can beat Robert Marshall, the Scottish champion, in the first round.

Draw, page 30

FOOTBALL SATURDAY

Christmas daze induced by seeing Arsenal outgunned at Chelsea

Painful memory of festive football in wartime London

BRIAN GLANVILLE

At Stamford Bridge stadium, I sat down and wept. It was Christmas Day, 1942. I was 11 years old, home for the school holidays, and had yet to see Arsenal lose. I should have been prepared. Arsenal had to face Chelsea, traditionally their nemesis, without half a dozen of their best players because, on Boxing Day, they were obliged to turn out for the Army or the Royal Air Force in a representative match in Cardiff.

And what players! Denis and Leslie Compton, both in the Army. George Marks, goalkeeper for England, in the RAF. Strongly built, dark hair sleekly groomed, Marks was the man who kept Frank Swift far away from England teams, doomed, the following year, to be sabotaged in his prime by an eye injury when playing for England.

Alf Kirchen, a muscular right winger from Norfolk. FROM VILLAGE BOY TO A *LION OF LONDON*!, the *Topical Times* annual had cried, some years earlier. Eddie Hapgood, peerless left back and captain of England, my own particular hero.

My father was with me, but we had been taken to the game by "Uncle" Willy Warshaw, a devoted Chelsea fan and a member of MCC. It was thanks to him that I once saw Denis Compton in the Lord's tea room.

Willie was an honorary uncle, jolly, bald and rotund, a flying corps gunner in the Great War, now in the rag trade. With no children of his own, he delighted in taking honorary nephews to Stamford Bridge or Lord's.

"We've got no full backs!" he lamented as I smiled smugly. One of the full backs Chelsea did have was Walter Winterbottom, future manager of England, then an RAF officer *attached to the Air Ministry*. He was a Manchester United professional then, but far from the RAF's representative team whose own right back, Laurie Scott, was yet another Arsenal man.

Arsenal's team that chilly, ill-omened morning was a thing of threads and patches. The goalkeeper, whose name is forever engraved on my heart, like Calais on Bloody Mary's, was Noel Watson-Smith, of Yorkshire Amateurs, and an amateur the poor fellow looked, as the goals flew in.

Four of them, oddly enough, were scored by another amateur, the Walthamstow Avenue centre forward, Bernard Bryant, who made little impact in the following years, but later turned up as a barman in the House of Commons.

Chelsea won 5-2, and at a certain unbearable *moment, I burst into tears*. A kindly Chelsea fan sitting in front of me turned round to commiserate: "If all Arsenal supporters were like you . . ."

Chelsea may have had no full backs, but at outside left was the formidable Billy Liddell, from Liverpool, who, alas for Arsenal, had not been picked for the RAF that Christmas. The inside right was a strapping Scot called Peter McKennan.

The next day, my father *and I shunned the return* game at Tottenham Hotspur, where Arsenal, bombed out of Highbury, were sharing with Spurs. We listened to the RAF v Army game on the radiogram. A cheerful Uncle Willy appeared at teatime "5-1," he gloated. "What a Christmas."

But hardly to be compared with that prewar Christmas when the whole Clapton Orient team turned up drunk on the platform at Waterloo Station, en route to play at Bournemouth.

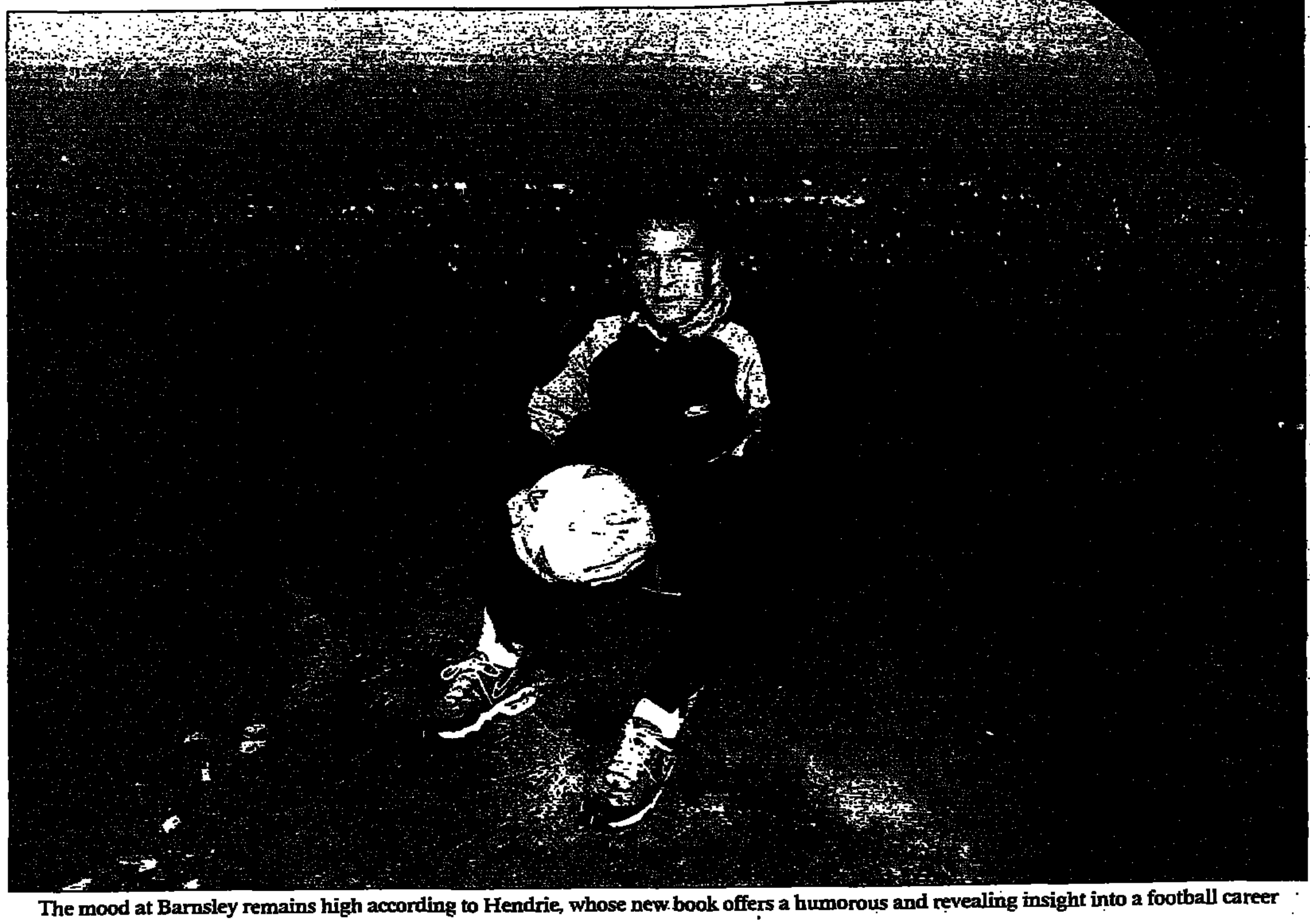
The story was told me by the late Ted Crawford, then the Orient centre *forward*. Not only were all the players "half seas over" after Christmas parties, he related, but there on the platform to greet them was a manager with a barrel of beer: "Hello, boysh!"

Orient took the field at Bournemouth. Crawford admitted that each time he went up to head the ball, he saw two of them, and once he collapsed. The referee ran over, perturbed, to ask if he was all right. "There's another of them drunk," shouted a spectator. Orient drew the game 1-1.

There are no Christmas Day games now. Players must be pleased, but *supporters love them*.

As for Chelsea, 40 years ago they had an amateur international who was said to be paid £20 a match in cash. So, at Christmas, three games were played in swift succession and he would pocket £60, while the pros got the maximum weekly wage of £20. For him, at least, it was always a happy Christmas.

In his dispatch this week, Mark Hodkinson tackles the Oakwell joker



SIMON WILKINSON

The mood at Barnsley remains high according to Hendrie, whose new book offers a humorous and revealing insight into a football career

Hendrie plays for laughs

LIFE AT THE TOP

A mention of his name is enough to inspire unfeasibly wide smiles. There will then follow a story, some improbable tale of mischief involving shaving foam or a hotel minibar.

Everyone in football seems to have a John Hendrie story; he is an anecdote in football boots. Two of the more recent make revealing bookends to his personality. His German team-mate, Lars Leese, was being interviewed by a journalist at Oakwell when, out in the corridor, Hendrie could be heard goosestepping and singing war songs.

If he is big on laughs, he is also big on heart. Last week, without telling anyone at the club — or the media — he attended a primary school in Stokesley, near Middlesbrough, where three children have died (in separate, unrelated circumstances) within *the past year or so*. He gave a reading and lifted spirits significantly.

Hendrie has just published *Don't Call Me Happy!*, a breezy résumé of a life in football that has included a free transfer at 20, the emotional trauma of the Bradford fire disaster, seven different clubs, almost 500 league matches and nearly as many pranks. While the book reinforces the belief that professional footballers have much in common with a bunch of giddy 14-year-olds on an outward bound course, it also offers a remarkable insight.

He has managed to distil a personality that is lively and candid into its 200 pages. He admires the professionalism of Howard Wilkinson, for example, but decrees that he is "devoid of humour". He is similarly diplomatic when describing Carlton Palmer, whose own mastery of tact ran to abusing Hendrie in the players' lounge while he was *talking to a nun and a 77-year*-old neighbour. "He showed a lack of professionalism and maturity," Hendrie understates.

"I'm known in the game as a bit of a joker, so I suppose that's where a lot of the book is coming from. I used to be pretty intense when I was a younger player but I've mellowed out *now*," he said. His reputation precedes him, so, when he is an hour late for the interview, and a note is thrust into my hands by the hotel staff, trepidation reigns. "Mr Hendry [sic] will arrive soon," it reads. Whether he will arrive dressed as a window cleaner or in his pyjamas is another matter.

Eventually, he shows, and the attire is unmistakably footballer — a bulky nylon coat emblazoned with logos, a pair *of jeans and just-washed* hair. It was a close call, though, since he had spent the previous day as a "Scouser", cruising the Barnsley nightspots in a violet shell suit with the rest of the Barnsley squad on their annual Christmas get-together. "We were going to have a bad-taste pub crawl at *first. We were all going to go* as Georgi Hristov!" he said. Hristov, the club's Macedonian striker, has arrived in South Yorkshire with a surfeit of polo-necked sweaters and tank tops that have generated much mirth. The mood in the Barnsley camp has remained high, despite their position at the bottom of the FA Carling Premiership. "Our heads are not down, the spirit is really high. Danny Wilson [the manager] is a good motivator and has worked hard to make sure we have remained positive," he said.

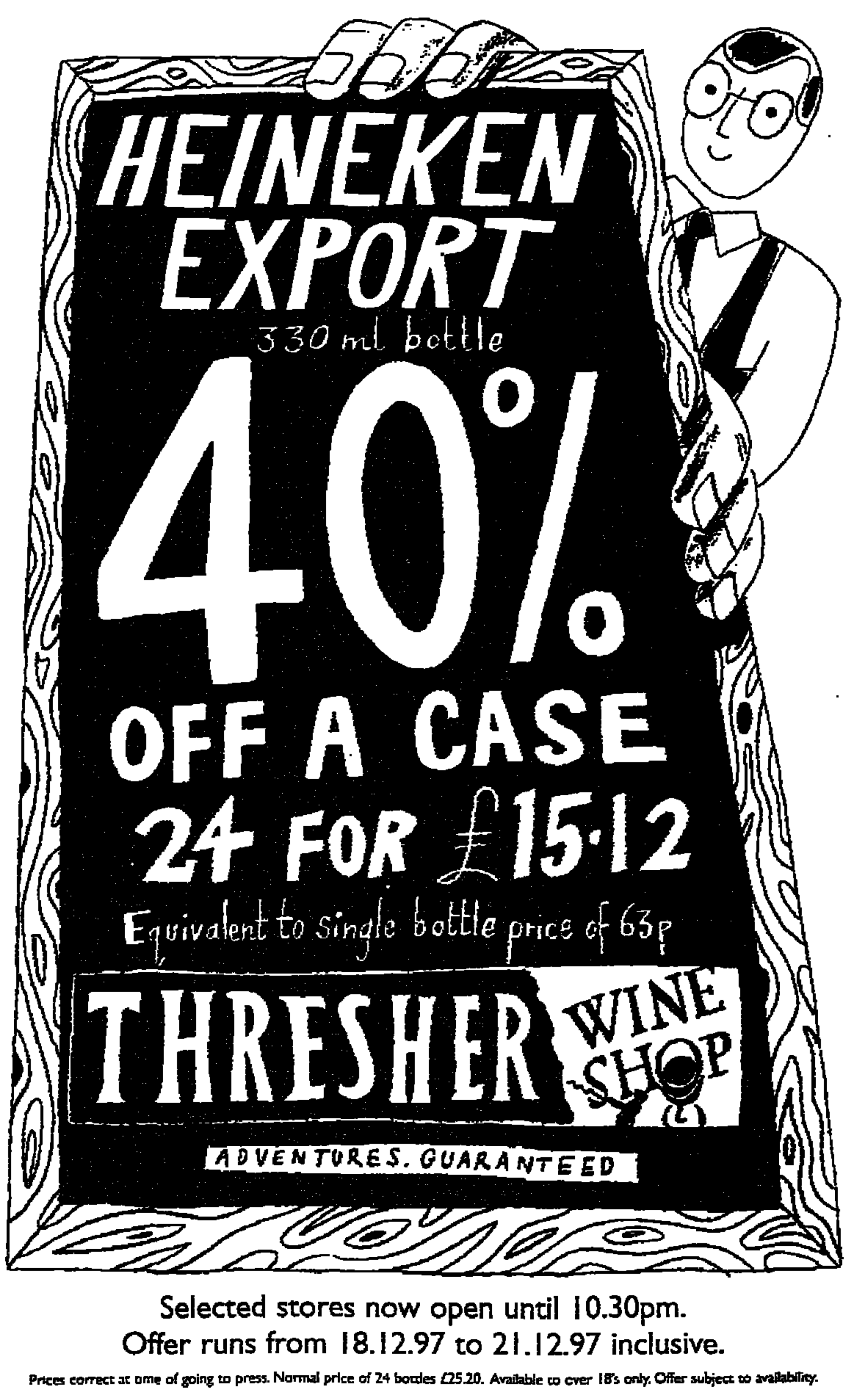
The last time Hendrie encountered a similar spirit was during his six seasons with Middlesbrough. It was eventually destroyed by the arrival of Ravanelli *et al*. In the book, he provides a fascinating snapshot of life in *the Middlesbrough dressing*-room during its famously cosmopolitan period. In short, Juninho was "one of the lads" and respected by all, while Ravanelli was a "very selfish guy who cared nothing about team spirit".

He describes an incident when Ravanelli was shaking *everyone's hand before taking* to the pitch. When he came to Hendrie, who was a substitute, he ignored him. "He clearly believed shaking hands with someone who wasn't even in the team was beneath him. He walked by me as if I was nothing." Hendrie said.

It would appear that much of the media supposition about Middlesbrough at the time was authentic. The foreign players were habitually late for training and did not honour curfews; this, inevitably, had a divisive effect. After a home defeat against Arsenal, Juninho and Ravanelli were practically fighting with one another, with various interpreters explaining to the others that the Italian accused the Brazilian of being "greedy", while the retort was that Ravanelli was "jealous".

Moving to Barnsley allowed Hendrie to remain in Yorkshire, where he had settled with his wife, Linda, after joining Bradford City in 1984. "Danny Wilson sold Barnsley *to me really well. He told me* that they had a real chance of promotion," he said. Promotion was duly achieved last April, though the moment was tinged by some sadness because it was secured against his former club, Bradford, who were thrown into a dire relegation struggle.

Barnsley take on Tottenham Hotspur today in another relegation match. Hendrie is not sure whether he will make the team or once more grace the substitutes' bench. Either way, the smile will remain.



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Water torture calls for desperate measures

Off the line

by Russell Kempson

LABORATORY technicians examining the drug-testing sample of Mauricio Lopez, a striker in the Argentine second division, were alarmed to discover not a trace of urine ... only beer.

"I couldn't urinate and there was no water at the ground," Lopez told a disciplinary tribunal, "so I started drinking beer. By the time I remembered what I had to do, I'd already had a couple of litres, but I still *couldn't go. So I put a bit of beer in the test* tube instead. I understand that I've made a mistake, but right then I wasn't that well. I was a bit tipsy." Lopez plays for Quilmes — coincidentally, the name of Argentina's most popular beer.

Cold comfort

Simon Milton, the Ipswich Town midfield player, had endured a lengthy training session in the fresh Suffolk air when he was invited to lunch at Portman Road to meet the guest of David Sheepshanks, the Ipswich and Football League chairman. When Milton was asked by the VIP as to how the training had gone, he replied: "Fine, but it was a bit cold." Sir Ranulph Fiennes, the renowned polar explorer, was strangely unsympathetic.

Naked truth

Most footballers, when asked to list their favourite pastimes, trot out the same old line — snooker, golf, DIY, etc. Not so Marco Simone, the former Italy striker, who plays for Paris Saint-Germain. He collects copies of *Playboy*, the magazine *for the more discerning top-shelf reader*. "I started four years ago and I bring home copies from wherever I go in the world," Simone said. "I've got over a hundred now. I'm a big admirer of naked women and the lighting and poses make them look better still. When I turn the pages, I feel I'm discovering a different work of art each time." Absolutely, Marco.

Unlucky mascots

When Nelson the dog, the Portsmouth mascot, went missing, the top half of the wandering pooch was eventually discovered along the South Coast outside The Dell, home of Southampton, Pompey's much-admired rivals. But where is El Tel, Nelson's replacement? Since the well-documented financial troubles at the struggling Nationwide League first division club, El Tel — a 7ft effigy of Terry Venables — has failed to put in an appearance at Fratton Park. Sounds vaguely familiar.

Charity begins at home

Desperate times call for desperate measures and every little bit helps. Oxford United, deep in debt and forced to invite offers for every player, resorted to a collection at the recent home match against Queens Park Rangers. United fans gave freely, but it is unlikely that the contents of the nine buckets used will have made much of a dent in the £10 million shortfall.

STRANGE BUT TRUE: Two of the Swindon Town substitutes for the away fixture against Charlton Athletic were *Cowe and Bullock*.

Halifax happy raising home interest rates

NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL
BY WALTER GAMMIE

HALIFAX Town go into a first versus second confrontation against Hednesford Town this afternoon fortified by a perfect record of ten wins out of ten in Vauxhall Conference matches at The Shay this season. Their outstanding home form has helped to put Halifax seven points clear of Hednesford, both having played 20 matches.

If there is any encouragement for their visitors, it is in the defeat suffered by *Halifax away to Leek Town last Saturday*. It was only their second of the season, and against lowly opponents who made play of exploiting what they had observed as a tendency by Halifax to start matches sluggishly. Leek went 2-0 ahead after 22 minutes and then defended that advantage.

Hednesford go into the match having last week enjoyed their now traditional *mid-season break in Spain*, courtesy of John Baldwin, who doubles as manager and vice-chairman. The trip featured heroics by Charlie Ntamark and Delton Francis, who chased and caught a thief who stole the handbag of an English pensioner in the streets of Torremolinos.

The immediate benefit of the break was not obvious. Hednesford missed the chance of closing the gap on Halifax on *Saturday, when they lost for the first time* in the Conference since September 27, going down 2-1 away to Hereford United.

The importance of the fixture and the continued force of Halifax's revival is certain to be reflected in the attendance. This season, Halifax have averaged 1,758, more than double last year's 841, and the crowd today is expected to come close to the season's best of 2,453 for the match *against Stalybridge Celtic*.

هدية من الأهل

Disparate talents united by desire

Gary Neville and his Old Trafford contemporaries have shown that commitment to the Ferguson cause is every bit as important as ability

OLIVER HOLT

He sits in the corner of a diner-style restaurant just off the M62 north of Manchester, a young man wholly without artifice, and tells his story. Because of the way Gary Neville is, because *honesty is his* compunction, because openness defines his character and candour is his route one, his words form a spellbinding narrative.

Neville can *relate the history* of the rise and rise of the great Manchester United team of the Nineties like no other. There is no arrogance to mask the weaknesses that he fought, no nonchalance to gloss over the long training-ground hours that he and the other young stars devoted to their dream, no pride to hide the debt he owes to others.

He was there at the beginning of the greatness eight years ago, when he was 14 and Alex Ferguson was struggling to hold on to his job as manager. Travelling up through the youth team and the reserve team with other prodigious talents such as Nicky Butt, Ryan Giggs, David Beckham and Paul Scholes, he was part of the gestation of the team that is now threatening to rule Europe. He was in on the birth.

He admits it readily: he lives for the club that he has supported since he was four. *His loyalty* to Ferguson and Eric Harrison, the United youth team coach, the men who have made him a regular for club and country, is absolute *and unconditional. His* philosophy is the Manchester United philosophy. If you want to understand what has helped to make them the team *they are today, listen to him.*

"When I was 14, I was average among players," Neville said. "I was just a sub for my county team, Greater Manchester. *Nicky Butt*, my brother, Phil, David Beckham, John O'Kane, Keith Gillespie and Ben Thornley were all playing for national teams. *They were the stars. They were* playing for their country at schoolboy level and I thought they were the bee's knees.

"I was nothing like that and I realised when *I* was 16 that if I did not give it my all, then I wouldn't have a chance. Eric Harrison, who is someone I would trust with my life, told me what I wanted to hear within the first two or three weeks of me arriving at the club. He said: 'If you listen to me and you do what I say, then you've got a chance.' That was all that I needed to hear, that I did have a chance and that someone believed in me.

"After that, I used to be on the training field until half past four every afternoon. Even when we weren't training in the afternoons, we still used to go out — myself, Beckham, Butt, Scholes, the lot of us. There were 12 or 14 of us and we all got a contract. As a year, we were unbelievable. Eric has said we worked harder than any year he has ever known.

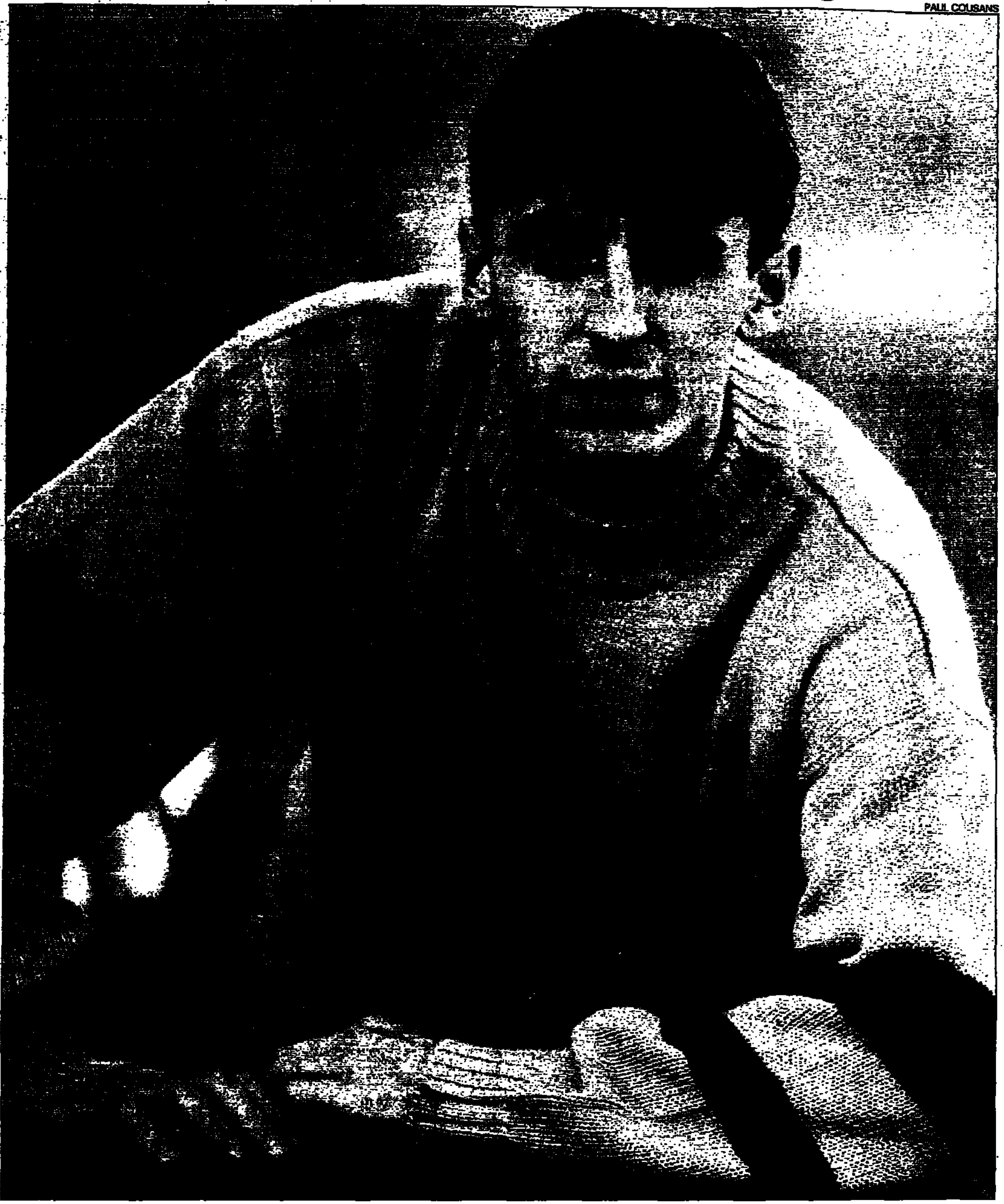
"He could not get us off the training pitch in the morning. We'd *have* dinner *and then* we'd be back out at quarter to one when we weren't due out until half past. When training finished at quarter to three, we'd still be there at four. *He'd* be knocking on his window telling us to come in and the stewards would be coming out trying to get us off. That was how we were.

"People like me, Giggsy, Becks, Butty and Scholesy, we have grown up loving Manchester United and I think *maybe* that *shows*. I don't think you'll ever see a Man United player give in. I see some players who have got great ability and if they *worked hard, they could play* for Manchester United, but with their ability alone, they won't. Then I see someone like Ryan Giggs, who has got all *the ability in the world and yet* he works his backside off every day. If he didn't do that, he wouldn't play for Man United."

Neville has made his work ethic his trademark. Last week, Brian Kidd, the United assistant manager, praised him for the Herculean efforts he made *to drag himself up* to the level of his peers. A few weeks before that, Peter Schmeichel, the United goalkeeper, said Neville was the one player in the team he admired most because what he lacked in ability he had compensated for in perseverance and hard work.

Neville himself insists that he still has to compensate for his shortcomings. "If I do not train at the maximum every day," he said, "I don't feel as though I am right in my mind. I have to work harder than the rest to make up for what other people have. I always feel that. I have always felt that."

PAUL COUSANS



Neville has had to work harder than the likes of Giggs to make up for a shortfall in skill. Now, though, he is a regular for club and country

'Don't let them down. Once Alex doesn't trust you you're finished'

Now, though, you cannot even see the join between him and his team-mates. Against Aston Villa on Monday, Neville, 22, was United's man of the match, and not just by virtue of solid tackling. There was one sublime first-half flick and one header that an average player might have nodded back into an area of the pitch where it would be up for grabs. Neville flicked it backwards, straight to the feet of Gary Pallister, instead. If he was indeed behind his colleagues, he has caught up now.

Not that it has gone to his head. There is an authenticity about him, a down-to-earth, quality that sets him apart as a throwback to the quiet, unassuming footballing heroes of yesteryear.

That quality was evident on the England tour of the Far East in 1996, when he spotted an overweight photographer toiling along the Great Wall of China with a heavy bag of equipment and offered to carry it for him. He and his brother, Phil, also an England squad member, are fine role models for a generation of aspiring young footballers, evidence that flair needs hard work to allow it to flourish. Nike wanted to recruit them to their advertising campaigns. Diadora beat them to the punch. It does not really matter. It is refreshing to see their virtues being recognised.

Neville's modesty is still intact, despite the fact that he has already won two league titles and an FA Cup and become an England regular on the right side of defence. He does not want an agent and he cannot imagine ever asking for a move. A trust has grown up between him and the manager now. To nurture that is what drives him on.

"For the first six months in the first team," he said, "the relationship with the gaffer was based on fear, but then it becomes respect. When you first get in the first team, he'll have a go at you and it kills you.

"I'll never forget one of my first games. It was away at Chelsea and I came on as sub at half-time and I didn't play well and after the game he had a go at me. I thought my whole world was falling in. But then on the Monday morning he was saying: 'How are you son, are you OK?' and you think he's forgotten about it. I don't fear him now. I respect him. If he says something, it goes.

"The young lads at the club, we're not his puppets and there are times when you disagree with him and you'll talk with him, but if he says something, you usually take that as being the truth. He sets the standard and he sets the discipline and you follow that. We've grown up with him and the thing that he's got in his favour is that everything he has told us has been the truth.

"When we were 14 and we first signed, he said: 'Look, son, I'm not going to tell you that you're going to play for Manchester United, you could all end up on the scrapheap. But what I will tell you is that if you are good enough, you will play for Manchester United. There is nothing I want more than to see my own lads coming through because I know I can trust them.'

"If he's honest with us, which he always has been, that is where the respect comes from and now every time I play football it's for him. Brian Kidd, *Eric Harrison, myself* and the fans, all those people who had so much faith in me. Even when you are not playing for Manchester United, *you are representing the gaffer* and the people who have had faith in you.

"If you let those people down, that's when the relationship becomes tarnished and then he starts not to trust you. You just lose that respect from him. That must be the worst feeling in the world for a young lad at Manchester United, because you just go.

"Once he doesn't trust you, that's it, you're finished. It was drummed into us from the age of 16: wherever you go and whatever you do, whether you're speaking to a lady in the street or if you're going out wearing the shirt on a Saturday afternoon, always remember that you play for Manchester United."

Kendall set to bid £4m for Vlaovic

By David Maddock

HOWARD KENDALL will pursue Goran Vlaovic, the Croatia striker, after failing in an attempt to take Ian Wright to Goodison Park.

The Everton manager denied yesterday that he had been involved in talks with Wright, but admitted that he had approached Arsenal over the availability of the England forward, only to be told by Arsène Wenger, the Arsenal manager, that the striker was not for sale.

Kendall also approached Manchester City in an attempt to sign Uwe Rösler and Georgi Kinkladze, but without success, and has switched his sights to Vlaovic.

The 25-year-old forward was recommended by Slaven Bilic, his Croatia team-mate, and Kendall watched Vlaovic score for his club, Valencia, against Deportivo La Coruña on Thursday evening. The Croatian has also scored in every *other game* at international level. Kendall will table a bid of around £4 million next week.

Roy Evans, the Liverpool manager, *has finally* secured a work permit for Brad Friedel, the United States goalkeeper, after a successful appeal to the Department of Employment. Friedel will arrive at *Liverpool* next week, completing a £1 million move from Columbus Crew, his American club.

Gross in unfamiliar territory

Matt Dickinson on the manager fighting a relegation battle for the first time

The Swiss journalist scurrying around the Tottenham Hotspur training ground demanded a *yes-or-no* answer: "Should Christian Gross be sacked if Spurs lose on Saturday?" If that is how they treat their managers in his homeland after three games in the job, it is no wonder that Gross preferred to put himself at the mercy even of England's notoriously fearsome media.

Gross was not talking about anything quite so dramatic as dismissal, but "relegation" and "critical" are words that have become prominent in his limited English lexicon. "Help" *will be another, should* his team lose at home to Barnsley today, a result that, coupled with a victory by Everton against Leicester City at *Filbert Street, would plunge* them to the bottom of the FA Carling Premiership.

It is a desperate situation that Gross claims to have walked into with *his eyes wide* open, but there are those, including former colleagues, who believe that he did not appreciate the size of the task when he agreed to succeed Gerry Francis on a salary of £300,000 — twice the amount that he received in Switzerland.

Erich Vögel, general manager of Grasshopper Zurich, where Gross came to prominence, is one who, despite his friendship, claims that Gross is struggling to adapt to a club with twice the salaries, four times the crowd and at least ten times the expectation.

"Christian is a very fine coach with an outstanding pedigree in Swiss football," Vögel said, "but the game here does not compare to England. English clubs are *huge*, there is much more money involved and the expectations are much higher. Unless you have coached extensively throughout *Europe. I am not sure you* can get a real idea of what is needed.

"Christian did very well in Zurich and had an outstand*ing reputation in Switzerland*, but perhaps that is not the only qualification you need to be a successful manager or coach in England. I hope he does very well, but it is a huge task and one that he will *not* have faced before."

Gross admits that he has jumped in at the deep end. "It is a new situation for me because I have never been in relegation trouble before," he said. He prides himself on his skills of motivation, but they have been put to *the* test *as* never before by two defeats in which his side has conceded ten goals. Sol Campbell's return after injury today could *not* have come at a better time and the England defender's spirit, as much as his skill, should ensure no repeat of the surrenders that allowed Chelsea to score six and Coventry City four.

Gross also believes that he has discovered where the essential weakness of his team lies after some typically methodical analysis. "Of 32 goals conceded, 26 have been in the second half," he said. "To be fresh over the 90 minutes, you have to be in good shape and we have to work on this." It was a surprise, then, to hear that he has eased off the training regime that had the *Tottenham* players *fearing* their five-a-side kickabouts were about to give way to assault courses and cross-country runs.

There has been *no dissent* yet, but nor has there been laughter with Gross a stern man at the best of times. "I don't want laughter, I want winners," he said. "It is a critical situation, but we will escape. This is a game we have to win."

BEN RADFORD / ALLSPORT

Anderton has given Tottenham Hotspur a welcome boost by signing an extension to his contract

Gross concedes that finding recruits is proving troublesome, but there was some good news yesterday when Darren *Anderton signed an extension* to his contract that will keep him at the club until 2000.

"I believe we will battle our way out of this position," Anderton *said and, to prove* his optimism, the England winger has not demanded a clause that will allow him to leave should the team be relegated. This afternoon should help indicate whether his faith is justified.

Juventus pursue Dyer

By Our Sports Staff

JUVENTUS are hoping to fend off interest from Arsenal and Celtic and sign Keiron Dyer, of Ipswich Town. The 18-year-old defender, a regular in the England Under-21 side, could command a transfer fee of up to £5 million, which would be a record for a teenager in Great Britain.

Celtic and Arsenal have been linked with bids of up to £4 million, but Juventus are believed to be ready to make a *higher offer after watching* Dyer play last week.

The Italian club first became aware of Dyer's talents when he put in an impressive *performance* for England Under-21 against Italy in Rieti in October. He capped a magnificent display with the only goal of the match.

Juventus sent representatives to look at Dyer in Ipswich's 2-0 victory over Portsmouth in the Nationwide *League first division last Sat*urday. Dyer suffered a groin strain in the game and had to withdraw from the England Under-21 squad that met Greece on Wednesday. The injury means that he will miss Ipswich's match at Port Vale *this afternoon. George Bur*ley, the Ipswich manager, wants to retain Dyer, but it is believed that he would not be able to resist a multimillion-pound bid.

"We have a number of young players with exceptional talent at Ipswich Town, one of whom is obviously Keiron Dyer," he said, "but I have always said that I don't want to sell any of them."

If Ipswich are forced to sell Dyer, however, the fee would break the British transfer record *for a teenager, which* was the £3 million that Leeds United paid Charlton Athletic for Lee Bowyer, a midfield player, in 1996.

Nigel Spackman, the Sheffield United manager, has returned to his former club, Chelsea, to strengthen his side's promotion challenge and signed David Lee, the former England Under-21 defender, on a month's loan. Lee goes straight into the side and will make his debut at Bury this afternoon.

The centre back has found his opportunities limited at Stamford Bridge since Ruud Gullit took over as manager *last summer. Lee made only* one appearance last season, scoring in the 3-1 home victory against Tottenham, but he suffered a broken leg later in the game and only made a return to action two months ago.

Ronnie Wallwork, 20, the Manchester United defender, has *joined* Carlisle United, of the second division, on a month's loan.

Fixture clash means new date for play-off

THE Football League has moved this season's third division play-off final forward by a day because it clashed with the England international against Saudi Arabia. *Glenn* Hoddle's side have matches with Chile on February 11 and Saudi Arabia on May 23 next year at Wembley. The Saudi *match is on the original date* for the play-off final, which has now been moved forward to Friday evening, May 22.

Chris Hull, a spokesman for the Football League, said: "*We* are delighted to assist Glenn Hoddle's preparations for the World Cup finals next summer." The second and first division play-off finals will take place as scheduled on Sunday, May 24 and Monday, May 25 *respectively. Kick-off times* have yet to be confirmed.

Kenny Dalglish, the Newcastle United manager, is likely to put an end to Colom*bia's hopes of playing his team* as part of their World Cup preparations. Colombia hoped to fix a date in March, but Dalglish said: "I don't *think it will happen, because* of a clash with international friendlies."

FOOTBALL SATURDAY

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR
v
BARNSLEY
Today, 3.0

Matt Dickinson

Gerry Francis was sounding off yesterday, insisting that Tottenham Hotspur would have finished in the top half of the table had he stayed. "But that was not good enough, not for me or the club," the former manager said.

Not good enough? Alan Sugar would probably get down on hands and knees and beg Terry Venables to return as coach if it could guarantee just finishing out of the relegation zone this season. The depth to which Tottenham have sunk in the quicksand at the wrong end of the FA Carling Premiership will be revealed by 4.45pm, when the final whistle blows at the end of this afternoon's intriguing clash against Barnsley.

If the Yorkshire side win, they will leapfrog over Tottenham and leave the London club second from bottom, at best. Should Everton win at Leicester, they could even be rooted to the foot. It is a predicament that Tottenham have been in before, third from bottom in the week before Christmas. It was in 1976 and yes, before you ask, they went on to be relegated five months later.

Those stark statistics alone should ensure that nobody at White Hart Lane is under any misapprehension about the importance of this afternoon's game. Whether the players can cope under that mounting burden of pressure will be one of the fascinations of a game that will not be for the faint-hearted. Francis claimed that by resigning he would ease the tension at the troubled club; don't try to tell that to Christian Gross, because the new Tottenham coach looks twitchier by the day.

Sol Campbell is fit to return to the defence and his presence is vital after conceding ten goals in two games against Chelsea and Coventry City. With Ramon Vega suspended, Campbell's physical attributes will be needed against Ashley Ward.

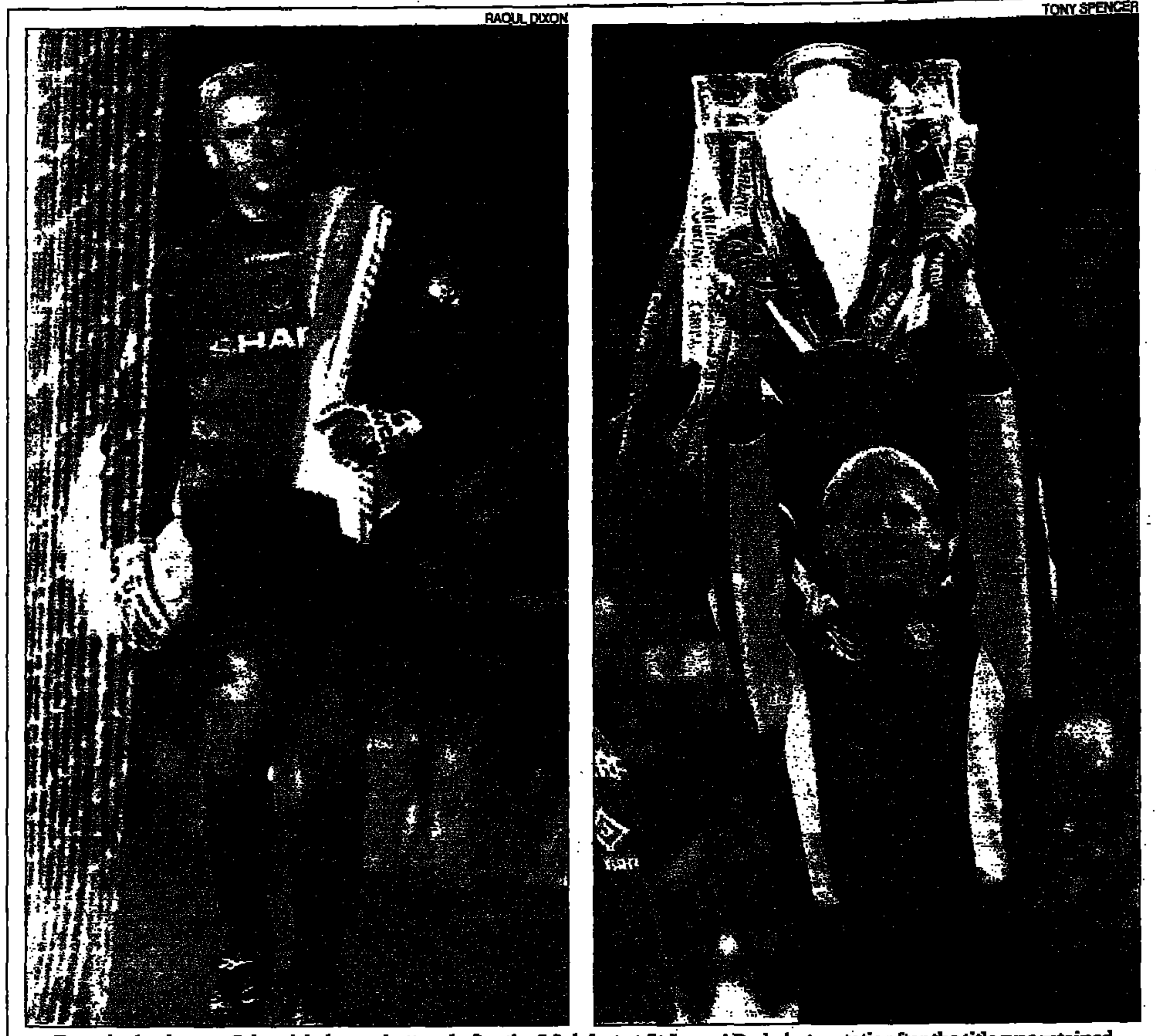
The Barnsley striker has been in excellent form recently, even more impressive given that he was sidelined for two months with viral meningitis. His comeback, for the spectacularly unexpected victory at Liverpool, has coincided with an upturn in fortunes for Danny Wilson's team, with their 2-2 draw against Newcastle United last week more proof of new-found resilience.

Wilson is certain to impress on his players the vulnerability of their opponents, but with Campbell restored to the starting line-up, they may be the first victims of a Tottenham revival.

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (probable; 4-4-2): I Walker — S Carr, S Campbell, G Mabbutt, C Wilson — R Fox, A Nielsen, C Calderwood, D Anderton — D Ginola, L Ferdinand
BARNSLEY (probable: 3-5-2) L Leese — A Moses, P Markstedt, N Eaden — A Krizan, N Redfearn, E Tinkler, J Bosancic, M Bullock — A Ward, A Liddell
Referee: M Reed

■ TELEVISION: Today: *Match of the Day*, BBC1 10.15pm, brief highlights.
■ PREDICTION: Tottenham to save themselves with a narrow victory.

RAOUL DIXON TONY SPENCER



Dane in the dumps: Schmeichel was shattered after the 5-0 defeat at St James' Park, but ecstatic after the title was retained

FIRST 11 ELEVEN

FROM CHUMPS TO CHAMPS

Manchester United return to St James' Park tomorrow, the scene of their 5-0 hiding in October last year. Here are 11 other occasions when the champions-in-waiting were soundly beaten.

1. So'ton 6 Man Utd 3, 26/10/96
One week after the Newcastle debacle, United were thrashed again. "For drama, read crisis", wrote the man from The Times
2. Aston Villa 5 Liverpool 1, 15/12/76
Bob Paisley's team came close to a treble, but they were no match for Andy Gray, Brian Little and Co
3. Man Utd 2 Everton 5, 20/9/56
The Babes were smacked and sent to bed early by Everton
4. Burnley 5 Leeds 1, 19/10/68
A shock defeat in one of the few seasons in which Revie's Leeds didn't finish second
5. Man Utd 5 Ipswich 0, 7/4/61
The men from Suffolk were punched at Old Trafford
6. Everton 1 Spurs 4, 25/8/84
After this opening-day mauling, Everton were beaten again in their second game — but it was all smiles by May
7. Liverpool 1 Wolves 5, 7/12/46
When Liverpool really copped it
8. Newcastle 1 Sunderland 9, 5/12/08
The men from Roker roared, but Sunderland finished third and the Magpies swooped for the title
9. Stoke 5 Arsenal 0, 26/8/70
Bertie Mee's Double-winners went to pot in the Potteries
10. Wolves 6 Burnley 1, 30/3/60
The Clarets were uncorked at Molineux
11. Orient 3 Everton 0, 12/9/63
No, we didn't believe this one either. Orient were relegated at the end of the season while Everton took the title

Compiled by Richard Whitehead

Thanks to Ray Spiller, Association of Football Statisticians, and Bill Edgar

BLACKBURN ROVERS
v
WEST HAM UNITED
Today, 3.0

Nick Szczepanik

One year ago this weekend, Blackburn Rovers were without a game, Middlesbrough having taken the unilateral decision to postpone the relegation battle at Ewood Park. They were also without a manager, despite announcing an agreement with Sven Goran Eriksson, the Sampdoria coach, who was to take control at the end of the season.

By March, Eriksson had had second thoughts and one could forgive Jack Walker and company for being grateful, with the benefit of hindsight, that he did. Rovers, under the guidance of the sage of Croydon, Roy Hodgson, now stand in second place in the FA Carling Premiership and have overcome the departures of Henning Berg and Graeme Le Saux with little visible effect on their defence.

Last Saturday's victory against Arsenal at Highbury emphasised the value of a fully-fit Kevin Gallacher. Unfortunately, his striking partner, Chris Sutton, is suspended for the visit of West Ham United. Martin Dahlin, the logical replacement, is injured and James Beattie, a 19-year-old forward, could make his second appearance, although the improving fitness of Lars Bohinen and Damien Duff gives Hodgson other options.

The visitors are in a run of poor away results. Only Sheffield Wednesday and Barnsley have conceded more goals on their travels.

Stan Lazaridis is still away with the Australia squad and Ludek Miklosko, the goalkeeper, is likely to be missing for several weeks with a neck injury, so the search is on for cover. Craig Forrest, the Canada international, who deputised against Wednesday last week, will continue today. The scoring return of Paul Kitson from injury in that match, to resume his partnership with John Hartson, may raise West Ham hopes, but most of the pair's successes have come at Upton Park.

The temptation to think that a run has to end sometime is natural, but against Blackburn, beaten only once at home? Unlikely.

BLACKBURN ROVERS (possible, 4-4-2) T Flowers — J Kenna, S Henchoz, C Hendry, G Croft — S Ripley, T Sherwood, G Flitcroft, D Duff — K Gallacher, J Wilcox
WEST HAM UNITED (probable, 3-4-1-2) C Forrest — I Pearce, R Ferdinand, D Unsworth — A Impey, S Lomas, F Lampard, K Rowland — E Berkovic — J Hartson, P Kitson
Referee: G Ashby

■ TELEVISION: Today: *Match of the Day*, brief highlights.
■ PREDICTION: Rovers roll on.

Simon Wilde

Football clubs tend to turn over more new leaves than a bookbinder, but Brian Little, the Aston Villa manager, feels that the Christmas period is the ideal time for his side to consign their mixed form this season to history. With a demanding match against Manchester United behind them and their improbable Uefa Cup run on hold until March, Little sniffs six much-needed points against Southampton and Tottenham Hotspur.

If three points are to be snapped up today, Villa may need their front pair of Stan Collymore and Savo Milosevic to fire. Neither, though, is in the best of spirits: Collymore has scored twice in 21 games and is taking a lot of flak, lately from Andy Gray, the television pundit, who accused him of failing to live up to Villa's best goalscoring traditions (ie Gray himself). Milosevic is heading towards a legal dispute with the club about playing another season for them after this one.

ASTON VILLA
v
SOUTHAMPTON
Today, 3.0

Southampton, very much in danger of relegation, appear easy prey on paper. Their away record is hopeless: seven defeats in eight FA Carling Premiership matches this season. If Villa's performance depends on Collymore and Milosevic, Southampton's relies on Le Tissier, who had an undistinguished game against Leicester but at least scored.

ASTON VILLA (probable; 3-5-2): M Oakes — U Ehiogu, G Southgate, R Scimeca — G Charles, I Taylor, M Draper, L Hendrie, S Staunton — S Milosevic, S Collymore.
SOUTHAMPTON (probable; 4-4-2): P Jones — J Dodd, K Monkou, C Lundekvam, F Benali — C Palmer, K Richardson, M Oakley, M Le Tissier — K Davies, D Hirst.
Referee: D Elleray

■ TELEVISION: Today: *Match of the Day*, extended highlights.
■ PREDICTION: Villa to win.

Keith Pike

It says something perhaps about the priorities of Premiership clubs that their flirtation with all things foreign does not extend to the support needed to keep those highly-paid, highly-rated imports on the field.

It was with something of a resigned air yesterday that Steve Coppell, the Crystal Palace manager, revealed that his two Italians, Lombardo and Padavano, had been dispatched to Turin for treatment to the injuries (ankle and hamstring respectively) that keep them out today.

"With all due respect to our medical department, in comparison to those at Juventus the facilities are antiquated," Coppell said. The Italian club employs two full-time doctors, physiotherapists and masseurs, "plus the best medical machinery money can buy". To compound Coppell's problems, Smith, Rodger and Dyer are far from certain to be fit and Edworthy is suspended.

DERBY COUNTY
v
CRYSTAL PALACE
Today, 3.0

As bans and breakdowns begin to bite, it is the depth of talent in a squad that counts and that should give Derby County the edge this afternoon. Jim Smith could be without five first-team regulars, including Sturridge, but with plenty of talent in reserve, it would be a brave man to bet against Derby extending their unbeaten record at Pride Park.

DERBY COUNTY (possible, 3-4-1-2), M Poom — G Rowett, I Stimac, S Elliott — S Eranio, L Carsley, D Powell, C Powell — F Baiano — D Burton, P Wanchope
CRYSTAL PALACE (possible; 5-4-1) K Miller — N Emblen, A Linighan, P Warhurst, H Hreidarsson, D Gordon — S Rodger, A Roberts, J Fullarton, I Zohar — N Shipperley.
Referee: M Bodenham

■ TELEVISION: Today: *Match of the Day*, brief highlights.
■ PREDICTION: Home win.

Richard Hobson

After the Battle of Stamford Bridge last weekend, George Graham, the Leeds United manager, is anxious that Elland Road should not become known as the Kicking Fields. Graham swiftly withdrew his criticism of Graham Poll, the referee, after studying footage of the first half against Chelsea in which eight players were booked and two sent off. Instead, he fined his five offenders almost £20,000 in total.

"I do not want us getting a reputation for foul play. I will not tolerate our image being tarnished," Graham said, arguably 30 years too late, given the perception of the club under Don Revie. Interesting, then, that Graham introduces a defender nicknamed "The Terminator" this afternoon as Molenaar replaces Radebe (suspended, naturally). Leeds sit in fourth place with a run of six home games unbeaten, but are still missing Kewell, who is with Australia for the footling Confederations' Cup.

LEEDS UNITED
v
BOLTON WANDERERS
Today, 3.0

Bolton Wanderers hope that Fish, a confident defender, will be released by South Africa from the same competition. Fitness doubts surround four players while Thompson, a target for Leeds over the summer, and Holdsworth are suspended. Cox, though, is available after an absence of four months.

LEEDS UNITED (possible, 4-4-2): N Martyn — G Halle, R Molenaar, D Wetherall, D Robertson — G Kelly, A I Haaland, D Hopkin, B Ribeiro — J F Hasselbaink, R Wallace
BOLTON WANDERERS (possible: 4-4-2): K Branagan — N Cox, M Fish, A Todd, M Whitlow — J Pollock, P Frandsen, M Johansen, S Sellars — P Beardsley, N Blake.
Referee: A Wilkie

■ TELEVISION: Today: *Match of the Day*, brief highlights
■ PREDICTION: Leeds to win a full-blooded game

Brian Glanville

Everton are in free fall and, with Duncan Ferguson and Slaven Bilic still suspended, it seems unlikely that their slide will be arrested. Mitch Ward, recently signed from Sheffield United, is also injured. At Chelsea, Ward made two fine chances for Ferguson that nearly brought goals, then carelessly gave away the penalty which changed the game.

That is how things are with Everton, who now seem likely to sell one of their best midfield players, Gary Speed, the Wales international, so they can buy new players. Bad news for them is that Emile Heskey, of Leicester City, a hugely promising young strikers, seems to have found the range again, heading two goals for England Under-21 against Greece in midweek.

The side's three grenadiers — Elliott, Prior and Walsh — at the back should have little trouble in the air in Ferguson's absence. Everton, though, have at least found an accomplished new goalkeeper, a proper successor to Neville Southall, in Thomas Myhre, the young Norwegian.

LEICESTER CITY
v
EVERTON
Today, 3.0

Significantly, they have not conceded a goal in their last two games and the £800,000 arrival from Viking Stavanger should give their defence heart. The trouble is that they are finding it so very hard to score.

LEICESTER CITY (probable, 3-5-2) K Keller — S Prior, M Elliott, S Walsh — P Kaamark, R Savage, N Lennon, M Izzet, S Guppy — E Heskey, G Fenton
EVERTON (probable, 3-5-2) T Myhre — C Short, D Watson, C Tiler — A Thomas, D Williamson, G Speed, G Farrelly, A Hinchcliffe — D Cadamarteri, N Barmby
Referee: J Winter.

■ TELEVISION: Today: *Match of the Day*, extended highlights.
■ PREDICTION: Leicester to win

LIVERPOOL
v
COVENTRY CITY
Today, 3.0

David Maddock

Roy Evans, the Liverpool manager, is not a happy man. Steve McManaman has been his most dangerous and most consistent player all season, yet a story appeared this week suggesting that Evans would be happy to sell the England forward.

Recriminations will follow, with Evans angry that he can be portrayed as so unthinking towards the Liverpool supporters who adore McManaman. In the short term, though, the Liverpool manager may have to face up to life without the player, if only for one game.

The winger has an ankle problem and is rated doubtful, along with Paul Ince. However, McManaman gave his customary breezy response yesterday to questions about his fitness. "Playing through injury depends on how tough you are and I'm as hard as nails."

Ince is a bigger doubt, which will probably allow Jamie Carragher, a potential England player of the future, to continue his impressive rise through the Anfield ranks.

Coventry have a rare talent of their own in midfield and at a snip of a price, too. They have signed George Boateng, who is on the fringe of the Holland team, from Feyenoord for just £250,000. Given that he is rated at £4 million, but was made available at the cut-price fee before he becomes a free agent under the Bosman ruling at Christmas, Gordon Strachan, the Coventry manager, is obviously delighted. "We'd have to pay that for an average non-league player," he said.

Boateng may get a start today, but in defence, given that Coventry have Burrows, Breen and Williams all suspended, while McAllister is injured.

LIVERPOOL (probable: 4-4-2) D James — J McAteer, B T Kvarme, D Matteo, S Harkness — S McManaman, J Carragher, J Redknapp, O Leonardson — R Fowler, M Owen
COVENTRY CITY (probable: 3-5-2): M Hedman — R Shaw, G Boateng, S Shilton — R Nilsson, P Telfer, T E Soltvedt, N Whelan, M Hall — D Huckerby, D Dublin.
Referee: P Alcock.

■ TELEVISION: Today: *Match of the Day*, brief highlights.
■ PREDICTION: A surprise result, home win.

ON MONDAY

Brilliant insights or hopeless guesses? Check our writers' predictions against their weekend match reports

Rob Hughes

After a severe kicking from Leeds United in last weekend's goalless draw at Stamford Bridge, Chelsea travel to South Yorkshire for what they hope will be a fairer test of talents and a resumption of goalscoring at Sheffield Wednesday. "Chelsea are very easy on the eye," Ron Atkinson, Wednesday's revivalist manager, has enthused. "They're one of the best teams in Europe, but if we play with drive and passion and the Hillsborough fans give us the same vocal backing that they did when we beat Arsenal, we'll be up for it."

Atkinson tried to buy Goce Sedloski, a big, strong Macedonian centre back, but found the goods damaged in the pelvic area and is trying to renegotiate the price on a game-by-game basis. His line-up, despite defeat at West Ham United, may be unchanged therefore, with Niclas Alexandersson, his first buy, and Benito Carbone as substitutes. The mercurial Paulo di Canio is bursting to show the King's Road Italians how it is done up north.

You never know with Chelsea. Should Ruud Gullit, the manager, restore Gianluca Vialli, or retain Tore Andre Flo, more mobile than his brother was at Sheffield United and who has capitalised with four goals in Chelsea's last two away matches? Indeed, nobody tops the 25 goals Chelsea have amassed in nine away games.

Who else plays for Chelsea at Hillsborough? Celestine Babayaro is out with a toe injury and Gullit's seven days of Christmas have been full of normal Stamford Bridge fantasy, suggesting that Fan Zhiya, the China captain, is coming to complete the multi-national squad, followed by Marco Negri, top scorer in Scotland, and Brian Laudrup from Rangers.

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY
v
CHELSEA
Today, 3.0

Additionally, until he signs an extended contract, speculation will mount that it is this season or never for Gullit and Chelsea in the championship. The immediate question is whether Chelsea, without Mark Hughes, who, like Peter Atherton of Wednesday, is suspended, can repeat last winter's 2-0 win, or draw the game, as has been the case in four other recent meetings.

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (probable; 4-4-2): K Pressman — I Nolan, J Newsome, D Walker, D Stefanovic — G Whittingham, W Collins, P Rudi, G Hyde — A Booth, P di Canio
CHELSEA (possible; 4-4-2): E de Goey — F Sinclair, F Leboeuf, M Duberry, G Le Saux — D Petrescu, D Wise, R di Matteo, M Nicholls — T A Flo, G Zola.
Referee: G Barber

■ TELEVISION: Today: *Match of the Day*, extended highlights.
■ PREDICTION: Chelsea to win the battle of the Blues.

Oliver Holt

The way it is looking now, Manchester United's 5-0 defeat at St James' Park 14 months ago was just an aberration, the only glimmer of weakness that Alex Ferguson and his team have shown for some time. For Newcastle United, it added up to the last hurrah of Kevin Keegan, the end of an old era rather than the beginning of a new one.

United, of course, have gone from strength to strength since. Even though their four-point lead at the top of the FA Carling Premiership may have been cut by the time that they play this afternoon, they will still be red-hot championship favourites, acclaimed as the best team in this country and rated by many as the best in Europe, too.

There are only a few dissenting voices, but one belongs to Gary Neville, the United full back. "You don't become the best by beating the best once, like we have done with Juventus," Neville said. "You've got to do it over three or four seasons and all the hype about us meeting Juventus in the final worries me because we have not proved anything in Europe yet.

"But what drives a lot of us on here is the fear of losing. In my first season in the first team, we lost the league and the FA Cup in a week. I was gutted all summer and I never want to feel that again. It's asking a bit much to win the title every year for 15 years, but somehow that's what you expect when you play for Manchester United these days."

NEWCASTLE UNITED
v
MANCHESTER UNITED
Tomorrow, 4.0 (sold out)

United are likely to welcome Paul Scholes back after a three-match suspension and, after Teddy Sheringham's third consecutive penalty miss against Aston Villa on Monday, Scholes will also be handed responsibility for spot kicks. His return means that Ferguson will probably have to choose between Andy Cole and Ole Gunnar Solskjaer and the former Newcastle player is likely to get the vote.

For Newcastle, becalmed in mid-table and coming off what their manager, Kenny Dalglish, described as their poorest performance of the season against Derby County on Wednesday, tomorrow's game could be the catalyst they need to spark a mid-season rally. United, though, should be too strong.

MANCHESTER UNITED (probable; 4-4-2): P Schmeichel — G Neville, G Pallister, H Berg, P Neville — D Beckham, N Butt, P Scholes, R Giggs — A Cole, E Sheringham.
NEWCASTLE UNITED (probable; 3-5-2): S Given — W Barton, P Albert, A Pistone — S Watson, R Lee, D Batty, J Barnes, J Beresford — K Gillespie, F Asprilla.
Referee: P Jones

■ TELEVISION: Tomorrow: Live on Sky Sports 1, from 3pm.
■ PREDICTION: Away win.

FOOTBALL SATURDAY

Winter break would benefit supporters as much as players

McMANAMAN'S WORLD

I have a feeling that English football will soon be embracing a winter break — very soon, in fact. It is long overdue and there seems to be the right mood now to force it through.

It is a good idea. For many years, chairmen, managers and players have said that it would benefit football and almost every season they are proved right. There are difficulties, mostly over the timing, but, in principle, it has to be a good idea.

I know that we could have a break over, say, Christmas, and the weather could be awful at the end of January, but that is not the point. Invariably, over winter, we have bad spells of weather and many clubs face a backlog of matches towards the end of the season. If we were to have a winter break, then the season would be extended automatically to accommodate the fixtures and there is a good chance that we would miss the worst of the weather in the process.

No one likes playing or watching matches in terrible conditions. The Newcastle United v Derby County game in midweek was, I understand, ruined by the conditions and many of the Derby supporters either didn't make the match because of the terrible conditions on the roads, or did not even dare set off. Undersoil heating makes pitches playable even in the worst conditions, but it does not guarantee a decent game, nor does it guarantee the safety of the supporters travelling to the match or when they get there.

There is also the subject of Christmas. Having no Christmas break is part of being a footballer. We accept that. It has always been that way and we are lucky that it is one of the few hardships that we have to face. I don't have any problems at all, but some of my team-mates have children and they do feel a pang of regret when they have to come in and train on Christmas Day, or even go away with the team to a hotel while their kids are left at home.

This is our most intensive period of matches and so we have to be professional and more focused than ever. There is no chance of over-eating or drinking because we usually play something like four games in six or seven days.

This year, we play on Boxing Day and then on the Sunday, but after that we have a break until after the new year. It is the first time in my memory that we have not been asked to play on New Year's Day — but don't get carried away with the idea that we will be out celebrating New Year's Eve. We have an FA Cup game on January 4 and we will be in training on New Year's Day just like every other.

Our fans would soon get to know about us living it up and so, for the Liverpool players, it will be a case of quiet new year's celebrations with their families, just as it is every year. At least this year, though, we won't be stuck in a hotel.

I'm not going to be Santa this year because I'm too skinny to be asked to play him at the club's party for all the children tomorrow. I'd fancy the job, but the lads say that I'll have to scoff quite a bit more Christmas pud. We'll have to leave it to Neil Ruddock.

■ **Spanish inquisition**

It is supposed to be the season of goodwill, but I have to confess to becoming increasingly annoyed and a little distressed at all the rumours and stories circulating about me supposedly going to Barcelona. I have been constantly asked about it this week, but what can I possibly say? There is absolutely no truth in it whatsoever, so how can I react to something that just doesn't exist? If I say anything, then it just gives credence to nonsense.

There have even been suggestions in the Spanish newspapers this week that I have signed some sort of agreement with Barcelona to join them at some time in the future. Not only is that an outrageous untruth that my lawyer will be responding to, but it is hurtful to me, Liverpool and our supporters.

I have had absolutely no contact with Barcelona since the club told me to go and speak to them last August. So when people come up to me and ask about it, I'm in exactly the same boat as them — I know nothing at all.

I've read the papers making all these suggestions this week, but if Liverpool have heard nothing at all from Barcelona and I have heard nothing either, then that is just end of story — people seem to forget that I am under contract and I am determined to honour that contract with Liverpool.

It seems to me that these stories always seem to circulate after I have had a decent game and that not only is it unsettling, it is not fair on our supporters. How are they supposed to feel if they hear that I'm supposed to have agreed to join Barcelona?

I can assure them I have not and that I am totally committed to the Liverpool cause. I just wish that all this nonsense would go away and allow me to concentrate on the one thing our fans are interested in — winning the championship.

■ **Surface tension**

I went over on my ankle in training this week and it shows just how difficult the conditions can be at this time of year. One day, the surface is bone hard; the next, it has melted and it is sticky — that is how I picked up the injury.

Yet, in many cases, I feel that you have to play through these problems. I have had a couple of days' rest and I trained on Friday morning, so, if at all possible, I will play against Coventry City. I have only missed a couple of games in the past four years and I don't want to spoil that record.

■ **Berger a sight to relish**

Funniest sight of the week: Patrik Berger's new haircut. I went into training on Friday and he had shorn all his lovely flowing locks off. What a sight.

Patrik is renowned for his long hair, but suddenly he has been transformed from a footballer who is every teenage girl's pin-up to one that looks like Burglar Bill. Well, maybe not that bad, but put it this way: you wouldn't let him look after your kids with his new hairstyle.

Merry Christmas!

STEVE McMANAMAN

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

(Last week's position in brackets)	PLAYED	POINTS	GOAL DIFF	HOME					AWAY					LAST 10 MATCHES W-D-L	CURRENT STREAK
				W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A		
1. MANCHESTER [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	0	28	4	4	3	2	16	9	7-1-2	W4
2. BLACKBURN ROVERS (3)	18	36	+14	6	2	1	20	10	4	4	1	13	9	6-3-1	W2
3. CHELSEA [illegible]	[illegible]	35	+23	[illegible]	[illegible]	1	16	6	5	1	4	25	12	6-1-3	D1
4. LEEDS UTD (5)	18	31	+7	4	2	3	13	11	5	2	2	13	8	6-3-1	D2
5. ARSE[illegible]	[illegible]	30	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	2	19	7	3	4	2	13	14	3-3-4	L1
6. LIVERPOOL (8)	17	28	+13	5	0	3	19	9	3	4	2	11	8	5-1-4	W1
7. DERBY COUNTY [illegible]	[illegible]	28	+6	6	2	0	19	5	2	2	6	14	22	3-4-3	D2
8. LEICESTER CITY (6)	18	27	+6	3	5	2	12	9	4	1	3	11	8	3-3-4	L1
9. NEWCASTLE [illegible]	[illegible]	26	-1	5	3	2	12	10	2	2	3	8	11	2-5-3	D2
10. WEST HAM UTD (11)	18	25	-3	7	0	1	17	6	1	1	8	8	22	5-0-5	W1
11. WIMBLEDON [illegible]	[illegible]	23	-2	3	2	5	11	14	3	3	2	8	7	4-2-4	D1
12. ASTON VILLA (12)	18	21	-5	4	1	3	11	12	2	2	6	8	12	3-3-4	L1
13. SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	-9	5	1	3	17	13	1	2	6	13	26	5-1-4	L1
14. COVENTRY CITY (16)	18	20	-7	3	6	1	14	10	1	2	5	3	14	2-4-4	W1
15. CRYSTAL PALACE [illegible]	18	20	-8	0	3	5	5	14	5	2	3	12	11	2-4-4	L1
16. BOLTON WANDERERS (15)	18	20	-11	3	5	1	8	6	1	3	5	8	21	3-3-4	D1
17. SOUTHAMPTON [illegible]	[illegible]	19	-6	5	1	4	17	14	1	0	7	5	14	5-0-5	W1
18. TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (18)	18	16	-18	3	2	4	8	14	1	2	6	6	18	2-1-7	L2
19. EVERTON [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	3	2	4	11	13	0	3	6	5	14	1-3-6	D2
20. BARNSLEY (20)	18	14	-30	2	2	5	10	20	2	0	7	7	27	2-2-6	D1

[illegible]

	Goals scored	Avge
1. Manchester Utd	44	2.44
2. Chelsea	41	2.28
3. Blackburn	33	1.83
=. Derby	33	1.83
5. Arsenal	32	1.78
6. Liverpool	30	1.76
7. Sheffield Wed	30	1.67
8. Leeds	26	1.44
9. West Ham	25	1.39
10. Leicester	23	1.28
11. Southampton	22	1.22
12. Newcastle	20	1.18
13. Aston Villa	19	1.06
=. Wimbledon	19	1.06
15. Barnsley	17	0.94
=. Coventry	17	0.94
=. *Crystal Palace*	17	0.94
18. Bolton	16	0.89
=. Everton	16	0.89
20. Tottenham	14	0.78

DEFENCE

	Goals conceded	Avge
1. Manchester Utd	13	0.72
2. Leicester	17	0.94
3. Liverpool	17	1.00
4. Chelsea	18	1.00
5. Blackburn	19	1.06
=. Leeds	19	1.06
7. Arsenal	21	1.16
=. Wimbledon	21	1.16
9. Newcastle	21	1.23
10. Aston Villa	24	1.33
=. Coventry	24	1.33
12. Crystal Palace	25	1.39
13. Bolton	27	1.50
=. Derby	27	1.50
=. Everton	27	1.50
16. Southampton	28	1.56
=. West Ham	28	1.56
18. Tottenham	32	1.78
19. Sheffield Wed	39	2.17
20. Barnsley	47	2.61

SCORING TRENDS

Goals per half	1st	2nd
Arsenal	20	12
Aston Villa	7	12
Barnsley	9	6
Blackburn	24	11
Bolton	6	10
Chelsea	17	24
Coventry	7	10
Crystal Palace	9	8
Derby	14	19
Everton	6	10
Leeds Utd	15	11
Leicester	8	15
Liverpool	7	23
Manchester Utd	17	27
Newcastle	10	10
Sheffield Wed	14	16
Southampton	8	14
Tottenham	7	7
West Ham	7	18
Wimbledon	6	13

CLEAN SHEETS

	Clean sheet	Failed to score
Arsenal	7	5
Aston Villa	5	7
Barnsley	3	6
Blackburn	7	3
Bolton	7	6
Chelsea	8	3
Coventry	6	8
Crystal Palace	4	6
Derby	5	5
Everton	5	9
Leeds Utd	6	8
Leicester	7	4
Liverpool	6	2
Manchester Utd	10	3
Newcastle	5	4
Sheffield Wed	4	2
Southampton	3	7
Tottenham	5	10
West Ham	2	4
Wimbledon	4	6

SCORERS

	Goals
Baiano (Derby)	11
Hartson (West Ham)	11
Sutton (Blackburn)	11
Bergkamp (Arsenal)	*10*
Cole (Manchester Utd)	10
Wright (Arsenal)	10
Gallacher (Blackburn)	9
Wallace (Leeds)	8
Blake (Bolton)	7
Carbone (Sheffield Wed)	7
Davies (Southampton)	7
Di Canio (Sheffield Wed)	7
Dublin (Coventry)	7
Fowler (Liverpool)	7
Sheringham (Manchester Utd)	7
Zola (Chelsea)	7
Berkovic (West Ham)	6
Huckerby (Coventry)	6
McManaman (Liverpool)	6
Redfearn (Barnsley)	6
Wanchope (Derby)	6

FESTIVE FIXTURES

	Dec 20-22	Dec 26	Dec 28-29
Arsenal	Wimbledon (a)	Leicester (h)	Tottenham (a)
Aston Villa	Southampton (h)	Tottenham (h)	Leeds (a)
Barnsley	Tottenham (a)	Bolton (a)	Derby (h)
Blackburn	West Ham (h)	Sheff Wed (a)	C Palace (h)
Bolton	Leeds (a)	Barnsley (h)	Everton (a)
Chelsea	*Sheff Wed (a)*	*Wimbledon (h)*	*Southampton (a)*
Coventry	Liverpool (a)	West Ham (a)	Man Utd (h)
Crystal Palace	Derby (a)	Southampton (h)	Blackburn (a)
Derby	C Palace (h)	Newcastle (h)	Barnsley (a)
Everton	Leicester (a)	Man Utd (a)	Bolton (h)
Leeds Utd	Bolton (h)	Liverpool (a)	Aston Villa (h)
Leicester	Everton (h)	Arsenal (a)	Sheff Wed (h)
Liverpool	Coventry (h)	Leeds (h)	Newcastle (a)
Manchester Utd	Newcastle (a)	Everton (h)	Coventry (a)
Newcastle	Man Utd (h)	Derby (a)	Liverpool (h)
Sheffield Wed	Chelsea (h)	Blackburn (h)	Leicester (a)
Southampton	Aston Villa (a)	C Palace (a)	Chelsea (h)
Tottenham	Barnsley (h)	Aston Villa (a)	Arsenal (h)
West Ham	*Blackburn (a)*	Coventry (h)	Wimbledon (a)
Wimbledon	Arsenal (h)	Chelsea (a)	West Ham (h)

CAUTIONS

Cards issued	Yellow	Red
1. Leeds Utd	43	3
2. Arsenal	42	1
3. Coventry	38	3
=. *Everton*	38	3
5. Derby	40	1
6. Crystal Palace	38	2
7. Chelsea	35	3
8. Bolton	33	4
9. Blackburn	33	3
10. West Ham	35	0
11. Sheffield Wed	30	2
12. Newcastle	28	1
13. Southampton	28	0
=. Manchester Utd*	28	0
15. Liverpool	26	1
=. Tottenham	26	1
17. Barnsley	26	0
18. Wimbledon	25	0
19. Leicester	21	1
20. Aston Villa	20	1

** red card downgraded to yellow*

REFEREES

	P	Cards issued Yellow	Red
1. G Willard	10	48	3
2. M Reed	7	33	1
3. *G Poll*	11	43	5
4. G Barber	9	36	3
5. P Durkin	12	49	2
6. D Elleray	9	37	1
7. U Rennie	11	43	1
8. P Alcock	9	36	0
9. M Bodenham	8	31	0
10. S Dunn	8	29	1
11. G Ashby	9	31	1
12. J Winter	10	33	2
13. M Riley	10	31	2
14. K Burge	9	28	1
15. N Barry	10	30	1
16. P Jones	8	23	2
17. A Wilkie	10	27	2
18. D Gallagher	10	24	2
19. S Lodge	10	21	0

INTERNET

FA Premiership clubs' official websites

Arsenal	www.arsenal.co.uk
Aston Villa	www.astonvilla-fc.co.uk
Barnsley	www.yorkshire-web.co.uk/bic/BFC.HTML
Blackburn	www.rovers.co.uk
Bolton	www.boltonwfc.co.uk
Chelsea	*www.chelseafc.co.uk*
Coventry	www.ccfc.co.uk
C Palace	www.cpfc.co.uk
Derby	—
Everton	evertonfc.merseyworld.com
Leeds	www.lufc.co.uk
Leicester	www.lcfc.co.uk
Liverpool	—
Man Utd	www.sky.co.uk/sports/manu
Newcastle	www.newcastle-utd.co.uk/nufc
Sheff Wed	—
Southampton	www.soton.ac.uk/~saints
Tottenham	www.spurs.co.uk
West Ham	www.westhamunited.co.uk
Wimbledon	—
FA Premiership	www.fa-carling.com

WEEKEND MATCHES

TODAY

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated ** denotes all-ticket*
Pools coupon numbers in brackets
In Premiership fixtures, † denotes sold out, otherwise seats available

FA Carling Premiership

(1) Aston Villa v Southampton
(2) Blackburn v West Ham
(3) Derby v Crystal Palace
(4) Leeds v Bolton
(5) Leicester v Everton
(6) Liverpool v Coventry
(7) Sheffield Wednesday v Chelsea
(8) * Tottenham v Barnsley

Nationwide League
First division

(9) Bury v Sheffield Utd
(10) * Crewe v Sunderland
(11) Manchester City v Middlesbrough
(12) Norwich v Stoke
(13) Nottingham Forest v Stockport
(14) Port Vale v Ipswich
(15) Portsmouth v Charlton
(16) Reading v Wolverhampton
(17) Swindon v Birmingham
(18) Tranmere v Oxford Utd
(19) West Bromwich v Huddersfield

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Middlesbrough	22	13	6	3	39	17	45
Nottm Forest	22	12	6	4	35	20	42
Sheff Utd	22	11	8	3	33	21	41
West Bromwich	22	12	4	6	25	19	40
Charlton	22	11	5	6	41	29	38
Swindon	22	11	4	7	31	30	37
Sunderland	21	10	6	5	32	21	36
Stockport	22	10	5	7	38	30	35
Wolverhampton	22	10	5	7	29	26	35
Bradford	22	8	9	5	22	21	33
Birmingham	22	8	7	7	23	18	31
Norwich	22	8	5	9	23	32	29
QPR	22	7	6	9	27	36	27
Port Vale	22	7	5	10	25	27	26
Stoke	22	7	5	10	24	30	26
Ipswich	21	5	9	7	24	24	24
Reading	22	6	6	10	21	35	24
Oxford Utd	22	6	5	11	27	33	23
Tranmere	21	6	4	11	28	32	22
Crewe	22	6	3	13	26	36	21
Man City	22	5	6	11	24	27	21
Bury	22	4	9	9	21	31	21
Portsmouth	21	5	5	11	26	34	20
Huddersfield	22	5	5	12	22	37	20

Second division

(—) * Blackpool v Preston (12.0)
(20) Bournemouth v Watford
(21) Bristol City v Chesterfield
(22) Grimsby v Carlisle
(23) Luton v Bristol Rovers
(24) Millwall v Wycombe
(25) Northampton v Plymouth
(26) Wigan v Brentford
(27) Wrexham v Gillingham

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Watford	22	15	5	2	37	15	50
Bristol City	22	14	4	4	39	18	46
* Oldham	22	9	7	6	37	29	34
Chesterfield	22	8	10	4	22	17	34
* York	22	9	6	7	27	24	33
Millwall	21	9	5	7	27	24	32
Northampton	22	8	8	6	23	16	32
Preston	22	9	4	9	28	21	31
Grimsby	21	8	7	6	27	18	31
Bournemouth	22	7	9	6	24	23	30
Blackpool	22	8	5	9	30	35	29
Wrexham	21	7	8	6	27	24	29
* Walsall	21	8	5	8	24	25	29
Bristol Rovers	22	7	7	8	27	33	28
* Fulham	22	7	7	8	24	25	28
Gillingham	22	7	6	9	27	32	27
Wycombe	22	6	8	8	30	34	26
Wigan	21	7	4	10	30	33	25
* Southend	22	7	4	11	23	39	25
Plymouth	22	5	9	8	27	29	24
Brentford	22	5	7	10	24	35	22
Luton	21	5	7	9	21	31	22
* Burnley	22	4	8	10	23	33	20
Carlisle	22	5	4	13	26	41	19

** not including last night's matches*

Third division

(28) Brighton v Shrewsbury
(29) Darlington v Scunthorpe
(30) Exeter v Rochdale
(31) Hartlepool v Mansfield
(32) Leyton Orient v Hull
(33) Macclesfield v Cardiff
(34) Peterborough v Lincoln
(35) Swansea v Cambridge Utd
(36) Torquay v Notts County

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Notts County	22	11	8	3	34	23	41
Lincoln	*22*	*11*	*8*	*3*	*24*	*17*	*41*
Peterborough	22	10	10	2	39	19	40
* Barnet	22	10	5	7	34	29	35
Exeter	22	9	8	5	31	25	35
* Scarborough	22	10	4	8	35	31	34
* Chester	22	10	4	8	33	28	34
Torquay	22	9	7	6	32	30	34
Hartlepool	22	7	12	3	31	24	33
Scunthorpe	21	9	6	6	29	27	33
* Rotherham	22	8	8	6	34	32	32
Leyton Orient	22	8	7	7	23	20	31
Macclesfield	21	7	9	5	29	23	30
Cardiff	21	5	13	3	20	19	28
Camb Utd	22	6	9	7	30	29	27
* Colchester	21	7	6	8	30	31	27
Shrewsbury	21	7	5	9	32	32	26
Rochdale	22	8	2	12	27	26	26
Mansfield	22	6	7	9	27	27	25
Hull	22	6	4	12	31	40	22
Swansea	22	6	3	13	22	35	21
Darlington	21	4	8	9	24	32	20
Brighton	*22*	*3*	*7*	*12*	*16*	*30*	*16*
* Doncaster	22	1	6	15	16	54	9

** not including last night's matches*

Vauxhall Conference

(—) Dover v Northwich
(—) Farnborough v Stalybridge
(—) Halifax v Hednesford
(—) Hayes v Rushden and Diamonds
(—) Kidderminster v Leek
(—) Morecambe v Kettering
(—) Southport v Gateshead
(—) Telford v Woking
(—) *Welling v Hereford*
(—) Yeovil v Slough

Bell's Scottish League
Premier division

(37) Celtic v Hibernian
(38) Dundee Utd v St Johnstone
(39) Hearts v Rangers
(40) Kilmarnock v Aberdeen
(41) Motherwell v Dunfermline

First division

(42) Falkirk v Airdrie
(43) Greenock Morton v Stirling
(44) Partick v Ayr
(45) Raith v Hamilton
(46) St Mirren v Dundee

Second division

(47) Brechin v Stenhousemuir
(48) Inverness CT v Forfar
(49) Livingston v Clyde
(—) Queen of South v East Fife
(—) Stranraer v Clydebank

Third division

(—) Albion v Arbroath
(at Arbroath)
(—) Alloa v Ross County
(—) Cowdenbeath v Berwick
(—) Dumbarton v East Stirling
(—) Montrose v Queen's Park

DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Premier division: Ashford v Atherstone, Burton Albion v Dorchester; Cambridge City v Worcester City; Gloucester v Crawley; Halesowen v Hastings, King's Lynn v Forest Green; Merthyr v Gresley; Nuneaton v Rothwell; Salisbury v Sittingbourne; St Leonards v Bromsgrove; Tamworth v Bath. Southern division: Cinderford v Waterlooville; Erith and Belvedere v Havant; Fisher London v Bashley; Fleet T v Cirencester Town, Newport AFC v Newport IoW; Tonbridge Angels v Dartford; Trowbridge v Baldock; Weston-super-Mare v Fareham; Weymouth v Clevedon; Witney v Margate; Yate v Chelmsford. Midland division: Bedworth v Shepshed D; Bilston v Sutton Coldfield Town; Blakenall v Stourbridge; Corby v Wisbech Town, Evesham v Ilkeston; Moor Green v Brackley Town; Paget R v Hinckley Utd; Raunds T v Redditch, Stafford v Grantham; VS Rugby v Solihull Boro

RYMAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Aylesbury v Hendon; Basingstoke v Purfleet; Bishop's Stortford v Yeading; Boreham Wood v Chesham; Bromley v Enfield; Carshalton v Heybridge; Dagenham and Redbridge v Sutton United; Harrow v Dulwich; Hitchin v Gravesend and Northfleet; Kingstonian v Oxford City, Walton and Hersham v St Albans. First division: Berkhamsted v Croydon; Billericay v *Chertsey*; Grays v *Leyton Pennant*, Leatherhead v Barton Rovers; Maidenhead v Whyteleafe, Molesey v Uxbridge; Romford v Aldershot Town; Thame Utd v Hampton; Wokingham v Bognor Regis; Worthing v Abingdon Town. Second division: Banstead v Tilbury; Barking v Northwood; Bedford T v Horsham; Bracknell v Marlow; Canvey Island v Hungerford. Cheshunt v Egham; Met Police v Braintree; Wealdstone v Edgware, Windsor and Eton v Witham; Wivenhoe v Leighton Town. Third division: Aveley v Corinthian-Casuals, Camberley Town v Harlow; Clapton v Hertford, Croydon v Lewes; Dorking v Flackwell Heath; H Hempstead v Ford Utd; Hornchurch v Epsom and Ewell; Tring v East Thurrock; Ware v Kingsbury; Wingate and Finchley v Southall.

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Accrington Stanley v Spennymoor; Altrincham v Marine; Bamber Bridge v Blyth Spartans; Barrow v Gainsborough, Bishop Auckland v Lancaster. Colwyn Bay v Radcliffe; Guiseley v Frickley; Hyde v Alfreton; Leigh RMI v Emley; Runcorn v Chorley; Winsford v Boston. First division: Bradford PA Ave v Workington; Buxton v Farsley Celtic; Droylsden v Whitby; Eastwood Town v Ashton United; Flixton v Whitley Bay; Gretna v Belper Town, Harrogate Town v Matlock Town; Lincoln United v Trafford; Netherfield v Congleton; Alfreton v Stocksbridge PS; Worksop v Great Harwood.

LEAGUE OF WALES: Aberystwyth v Bangor City (2.0); Barry v Caernarfon (2.0); Cemaes Ynys Mon v Caersws (2.30); Welshpool v Inter Cable-Tel (2.30).

SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Cliftonville v Ards; Coleraine v Portadown, Crusaders v Ballymena; Glenavon v Glentoran; Linfield v Omagh. First division: Bangor v Limavady Utd; Distillery v Carrick, Dungannon Swifts v Ballyclare; Larne v Newry

FAI HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Derry v Sligo (7.30); Kilkenny v Bohemians (7.30)

HIGHLAND LEAGUE: Buckie Thistle v Deveronvale, Clachnacuddin v Fort William, Cove v Huntly; Elgin v Lossiemouth; Forres Mechanics v Nairn County; Keith v Rothes; Peterhead v Fraserburgh; Wick Academy v Brora.

FA CARLSBERG VASE: Third-round replay: Chard v Cowes Sports.

ARTHURIAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Chigwellians v Salopians; Lancing v Haberdashers' Arthur Dunn Cup: Carthusians v Brentwoods; Cholmeleians v Ardinians; Reptonians v Foresters.

THE TIMES FA YOUTH CUP: Third round: Middlesbrough v Charlton.

TOMORROW

FA Carling Premiership

† Newcastle v Manchester Utd (4.0)

Nationwide League
First division

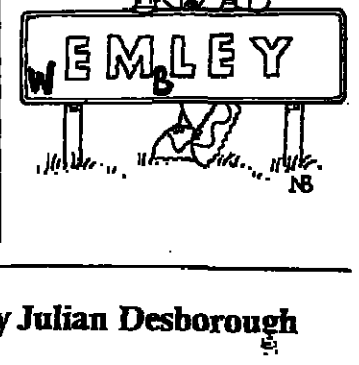
Queens Park Rangers v Bradford (1.0)

FA WOMEN'S PREMIER LEAGUE: Bradford v Tranmere (3.0); Everton v Liverpool (1.0); Millwall v Wembley (3.0)

COVERAGE

TELEVISION: Today: BBC1: *Match of the Day*, from 10.15pm. Sky Sports 1: *Bobby Charlton's Football Scrapbook*, from 5.30pm, Spanish league, Barcelona v Atlético Madrid (live), from 7pm. Tomorrow: BBC1: *Match of the Day* (repeat), from 6.45am. Channel 4: *Football Italia*, from 1.10pm. Sky Sports 1: Premiership, Newcastle v Manchester United (live), from 3pm; Spanish league, Real Madrid v Español (live), from 6.30pm. Sky Sports 2: Nationwide League, Queens Park Rangers v Bradford (live), from 12pm

RADIO: Today: BBC Radio 5 Live: Live coverage in *Sport on Five*, from 1pm. Tomorrow: BBC Radio 5 Live: Live coverage of Newcastle v Manchester United in *Sport on Sunday*, from 1pm

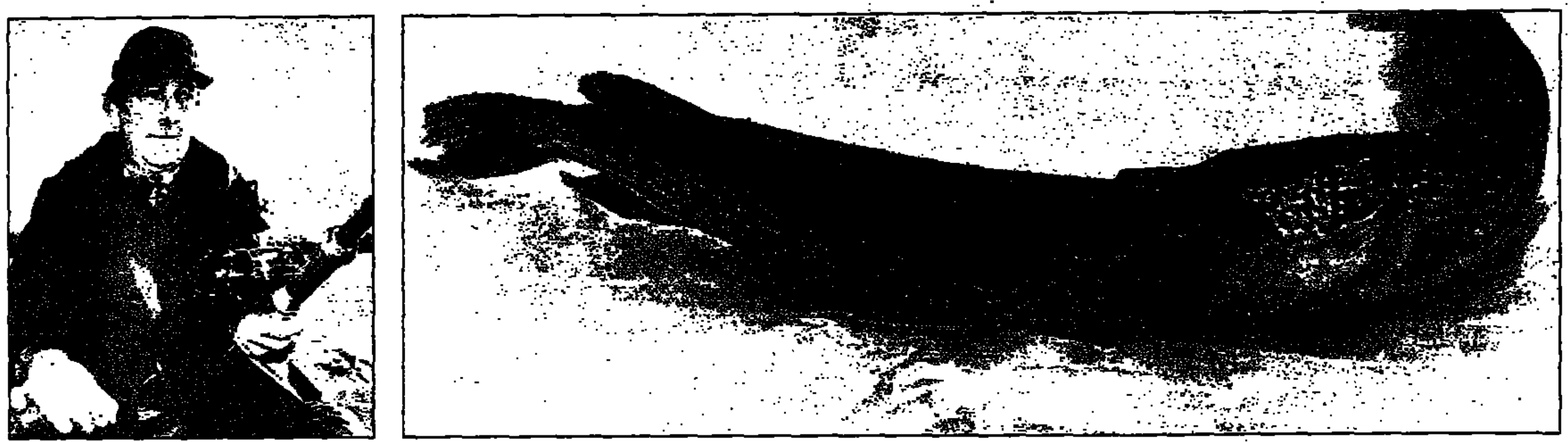


Statistics compiled by Julian Desborough

At the sharp end: the preserved head of the Dowdeswell Pike, a 60lb giant that was discovered dead at Dowdeswell Reservoir, near Cheltenham, more than a century ago. It remains the biggest specimen ever found in England

Chilling tales from the riverbank

An aura of fear surrounds the pike, our largest freshwater predator. Now, though, is the winter of contentment for the hardy anglers who target it. **Brian Clarke** explains



Preying on predators: the legendary Fred Buller, left; and, above, a six-pounder that suffered a gruesome fate after trying to swallow a pike of similar size

When I was 11 or 12, my pal Tony Richardson and I cycled the five or six miles from our homes near the Tees in Darlington, downstream towards the little village of Croft. Just outside the village, we stopped, laid our bikes in the hedge and walked over a field to two ponds that we had been told about.

Hell's Kettles had a spooky reputation. For one thing, the water was glass-clear, an unnatural occurrence at a time when most northern waters were so thick with pollution that an angler's weight almost floated. For another, they were bottomless: they went halfway to Australia, everyone knew that. For another, they held pike.

Tony and I had never seen a pike before, but we knew all about them. They were as big as sharks. They lived on other fish . . . and ducks and geese and dogs and maybe small children. They had enormous teeth and cold, round eyes that followed you everywhere, even after the fish was dead. But we had never seen one or fished for one, which was why we were there.

We were halfway across the field when we saw a commotion on the bank and realised that it was an angler with a fish. A big fish. We dropped our bags and ran.

We found him kneeling athwart a medium-sized pike. The pike had a motorcycle gauntlet clamped in its jaws which, the man said, he had put on while he removed the hooks. The pike had closed its jaws and its teeth had gone clean through the leather, into the hand inside. Eventually, he had jerked his hand free.

All the time that he was talking, the man was holding his hand up, turning it this way and that. All the time that he was talking, we were looking on, wide-eyed. There were several long, fine cuts down the back of his hand. Blood was dripping into the grass.

It is a fair bet that thousands of the anglers heading to the water over the holiday will have stories like that. Now that pike season is in full swing, they will be brought out and dusted off. Lean and mean, *Esox lucius*, Britain's biggest native freshwater predator, has a special place in the angler's psyche. It is the only freshwater fish which many an angler approaches with fear when he has it on the bank and needs to unhook it.

If the fantasists have a target, it will be the Dowdeswell Pike, the biggest example known for certain to have existed in England. It was found in Dowdeswell Reservoir, near Cheltenham, in 1896 and weighed 60lb — ten or 12 times heavier than the average salmon on the fishmonger's slab.

Closer to earth, the target is 46lb 13oz. This fish was one of a string of immense pike that came from Llandegfedd reservoir, near Pontypool, in the late 1980s and early 1990s. It was, like all big pike, a female. The previous record, a 45-pounder, had been taken from the same lake in 1989 by a captor famous for more than his angling. Gareth Edwards is just one of many famous sportsmen who fish fanatically as well.

Most pike anglers will be more realistic still. At least, they will if they have read their Buller. Fred Buller is the most famous living pike fisherman and by far pike fishing's most authoritative historian. He has tracked down and documented every pike over 35lb known to have been caught on rod and line anywhere — and has travelled through Europe to North America, Russia and even China to find them. By 1979, when he published his remarkable *The Domesday Book of Mammoth Pike*, he had found just 230 taken in the previous 250 years. He reckons that the figure may be little more than 300 today, even given the advances in knowledge and technique.

Over Christmas and new year, the average piker will simply be hoping to catch something. Serious anglers will have a strategy. For a start, they will choose where they go, concentrating, if they can, on the relatively small number of waters where monster pike can be found. These are places that offer a continuous supply of prey, easily acquired; and that are big enough to hid a particular fish from its only enemy, man.

Lakes that are stocked with trout for fly-fishing produce plenty of big specimens. The pike in such lakes as Grafham Water, in Huntingdonshire, Rutland Water, in Leicestershire, and Bow Beech, in Kent, live beneath a conveyor-belt of rich food that is constantly topped up.

If, as at Llandegfedd, there is a ready population of smaller pike for big pike to feed on, so much the better. There is nothing one pike likes better than another and there are numerous records of fish trying to take members of their own kind, even those close to their own weight. Some have been found dead in lake margins, their jaws gagged on the head of another pike that was too big to swallow. Ted Hughes, the Poet Laureate and a keen angler himself, based one of several poems about pike on such an incident.

Serious pike anglers will be choosing not only the place, but the weather. Big pike have been caught in every kind of weather but given the choice, most experts will opt for a warmish, windy day in a settled period. Settled weather means that the fish are not having to adapt to changes that can affect their appetites; experience suggests that they feed better in winter when the air temperature exceeds that of the water; and wind, perhaps by putting extra oxygen into the water in addition to disguising the angler's tackle with dancing light, seems to induce fish to feed with less caution.

The methods used will mostly be time-honoured. Always, the bait will be a fish or something that suggests a fish. Livebaiting, though on the wane now, is the oldest method of all. Deadbaiting with freshwater fish must come a close second, because the pike is a scavenger as well as a hunter. Even the relatively "modern" vogue of fishing for pike with dead, aromatic sea fish has ancient roots. Dame Juliana Berners, who wrote *A Treatyse of Fysshyng wyth an Angle*, the first book on the sport to be printed in English, advised anglers to "take a codlynge hoke and take a fresshe heering . . ." as long ago as 1496.

Other methods will include spinning, either with metal lures that flash provocatively, or "plugs", which dive and wriggle to suggest a sick or injured fish. A few enthusiasts, more interested in the "how" of fishing than in the "what" of catching, will use trout tackle and "flies" — although the flies will be as big as parrots and they will be fished on steel traces.

And so over the holiday, while the rest of us huddle indoors, perhaps nursing hangovers, the nation's pike anglers will be out there, come what may. They will be crouched in the margins or hunched in drifting boats, waiting for a big fish to strike, which some will. The majority will exercise all caution — but it is a certainty that some will leave their blood in the grass.

RUGBY UNION FIXTURES

TODAY

Kick-off 2.0 unless stated

International match

Italy v Ireland
(*in Bologna, 1.30*)

Heineken Cup semi-final

Bath v Pau

European Conference semi-finals

Agen v Newcastle (1.15)
Colomiers v Stade Français

Allied Dunbar Premiership
First division

Leicester v Harlequins (3.0)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Saracens	7	7	0	0	195	103	14
Newcastle	6	6	0	0	180	109	12
Richmond	7	4	0	3	166	135	8
Harlequins	6	4	0	2	184	161	8
Leicester	5	3	0	2	142	110	6
Sale	7	3	0	4	232	201	6
Bath	5	3	0	3	176	169	6
Northampton	6	2	0	4	139	120	4
Gloucester	6	2	0	4	147	149	4
Wasps	5	1	0	4	109	153	2
London Irish	6	1	0	5	90	190	2
Bristol	7	1	0	6	92	252	2

Second division

Bedford v Moseley (3.0)
Blackheath v West Hartlepool (3.0)
Exeter v Fylde (3.0)
Orrell v Waterloo (3.0)
Rotherham v Coventry (2.15)
Wakefield v London Scottish (2.30)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bedford	10	10	0	0	335	154	20
L Scottish	11	8	0	3	290	213	16
Waterloo	11	7	0	4	284	232	14
W Hartlepool	10	7	0	3	237	199	14
Coventry	11	7	0	4	213	257	14
Orrell	10	6	0	4	234	171	12
Moseley	10	6	0	4	198	183	12
Rotherham	10	4	0	6	217	209	8
Blackheath	11	4	0	7	246	277	8
Exeter	11	2	0	9	172	277	4
Wakefield	11	1	0	10	198	280	2
Fylde	10	1	0	9	133	297	2

Jewson National League
First division

Liverpool St Helens v Reading (2.30)
London Welsh v Otley (2.15)
Lydney v Nottingham (3.0)
Newbury v Morley (3.0)
Rosslyn Park v Harrogate (2.30)
Wharfedale v Leeds (2.15)
Worcester v Rugby (2.30)

Second division north

Aspatria v Stourbridge (2.30)
Birmingham/Solihull v Sandal (2.30)
Kendal v Nuneaton (2.30)
Manchester v Lichfield (2.15)
Preston Grasshoppers v Hinckley (2.15)
Sedgley Park v Winnington Park (2.15)
Walsall v Sheffield (2.30)

Second division south

Barking v Redruth (2.15)
Bridgwater v Cheltenham
Camberley v Metropolitan Police (2.30)
Clifton v Esher (2.15)
Havant v Henley (2.30)
N Walsham v Weston-super-Mare (2.15)
Tabard v Plymouth (2.15)

SOUTH WEST: First division: Barnstaple v Stroud; Berry Hill v St Ives; High Wycombe v Maidenhead; Launceston v Gloucester Old Boys; Matson v Bracknell; Penzance and Newlyn v Torquay.

LONDON AND SOUTH EAST: First division: Askeans v Southend; Basingstoke v Sutton and Epsom; Charlton Park v Ruislip; Guildford and Godalming v Norwich; Harlow v Wimbledon; Old Colfeians v Sudbury; Old Mid-Whitgiftians v Staines; Thanet Wanderers v Cheshunt.

MIDLANDS: First division: Barkers Butts v Leighton Buzzard; Belgrave v Hereford; Broadstreet v Banbury; Burton v Derby; Syston v Stoke-on-Trent; [illegible] v Kenilworth; Whitchurch v Scunthorpe; Wolverhampton v Mansfield.

NORTH: First division: Bridlington v Macclesfield; Doncaster v New Brighton; Hull Ionians v Tynedale; Middlesbrough v Wigton; Widnes v Broughton Park; West Park Bramhope v Stockton.

Swalec Cup fourth round
Group A

Kenfig Hill v Treorchy
Narberth v Wrexham
Pontypridd v Bonymaen
Trimsaran v Builth Wells

Group B

Cross Keys v Pontyclun
Ebbw Vale v Kidwelly
Gilfach Goch v Seven Sisters
Tonyrefail v Croesyceiliog

Group C

Beddau v Cardiff Institute
Glynneath v Merthyr
Llanelli v Dunvant
Mountain Ash v Neath Athletic

Group D

Cardiff v Abercarn
Carmarthen Quins v Llanharan
Newbridge v Abercwmboi
Ynysybwl v Treherbert

Group E

Abercynon v Caerphilly
Cwmgors v Porthcawl
Newport v Pwllheli
Tylorstown v South Wales Police

Group F

Cwmllynfell v Neath
Maesteg Quins v Llandovery
Morriston v Tredegar
Penygraig v Blaina

Group G

Aberavon v Bedwas
Blackwood v Maesteg
Garndiffaith v Bridgend
Ystradgynlais v Rumney

Group H

Aberavon Quins v Felinfoel
Pontypool v Abertillery
Swansea v Whitland
Tondu v Pyle

Tennents Premiership
First division

Boroughmuir v West of Scotland
Currie v Edinburgh Acads
Heriot's FP v Hawick
Jed-Forest v Melrose
Stirling County v Watsonians

Second division

Gala v Preston Lodge
Glasgow Hawks v Biggar
Kelso v Kilmarnock
Musselburgh v Dundee HSFP
Peebles v Kirkcaldy

Third division

Ayr v Gordonians
Glasgow Southern v Stewart's Mel FP
Grangemouth v Glenrothes
Hillhead/Jordanhill v Aberdeen GSFP
Stewartry v Selkirk

AIB League
Second division

DLSP v Monkstown (2.30)

TOMORROW

Heineken Cup semi-final

Toulouse v Brive (2.20)

Allied Dunbar Premiership
First division

Richmond v Northampton (2.30)

TIMES RUGBY UNION STATISTICS

TOP POINTS-SCORERS IN EUROPE

		T	C	P	DG	Pts
1	*C Lamaison (Brive)*	1	26	60	2	243
2	L Jarvis (Cardiff)	4	29	50	1	231
3	D Dominguez (Stade Français)	5	29	41	4	218
4	M Lynagh (Saracens)	6	28	31	-	179
5	G Rees (Wasps)	1	27	39	-	176
6	J Stransky (Leicester)	4	27	33	-	173
7	S Howarth (Sale)	2	34	27	2	165
8	M Mapletoft (Gloucester)	3	22	30	3	158
9	T Castaignède (Castres)	5	23	25	3	155
10	N Jenkins (Pontypridd)	-	26	33	-	151

Christophe Lamaison goes 12 points clear after his 27 points (from nine penalties) against *Montferrand* last weekend. Michael Lynagh's 20 points against Bath put him ahead of Gareth Rees as the leading points-scorer in the top English division.

TOP TRY-SCORERS IN EUROPE

		Lge	Eur	Int	Rep	Total
1	D Bory (Narbonne)	4	8	-	-	12
	M Biboulet (Stade Français)	5	7	-	-	12
3	S Dominici (Stade Français)	5	5	-	-	10
	E Bolobolo (*Stade Français*)	2	8	-	-	*10*
	M Horak (Leicester)	3	5	-	2	10
6	W Greenwood (Leicester)	3	6	-	-	9
	K Logan (Wasps)	1	8	-	-	9
8	X Garbajosa (Toulouse)	1	7	-	-	8
	S Peysson (Colomiers)	2	6	-	-	8
	M Moore (Sale)	2	6	-	-	8
	P Saint Andre (Gloucester)	2	4	2	-	8
	V Tuigamala (Newcastle)	1	7	-	-	8

Will Greenwood moves up one place after his try at Richmond, but the main change sees his club-mate Michael Horak come into the list at No 3 after two tries for England Under-21 *against* New Zealand Youth and two against Sale.

SEASON'S RECORD
(all matches)

		P	W	D	L	%
1	Newcastle	13	12	0	1	92.30
	Toulouse	13	12	0	1	92.30
3	Colomiers	13	11	0	2	84.62
	Stade Français	13	11	0	2	84.62
5	*Agen*	*13*	*9*	*0*	4	*69.23*
	Bath	13	9	0	4	69.23
7	Brive	14	9	1	4	67.86
8	*Pau*	13	7	1	5	*57.69*

POINTS SCORED

		P	Pts	Avge
1	Stade Français	13	590	45.38
2	Newcastle	13	488	37.54
3	Colomiers	13	482	37.07
4	Toulouse	13	452	34.77
5	Brive	14	428	30.57
6	Agen	13	367	28.23
7	Bath	13	349	26.85
8	Pau	13	340	26.15

POINTS CONCEDED

		P	Pts	Avge
1	Newcastle	13	207	15.92
	Pau	13	207	15.93
3	Toulouse	13	228	17.54
4	Stade Français	13	246	18.92
5	Agen	13	253	*19.56*
6	Colomiers	13	274	21.08
7	Bath	13	309	23.77
8	Brive	14	348	24.86

PENALTY GOALS SCORED

		P	Pen	Avge
1	Brive	14	49	3.50
2	Bath	13	45	3.46
3	Colomiers	13	37	2.85
4	Newcastle	13	31	2.38
5	Stade Français	13	29	2.23
6	Pau	13	28	2.15
7	Toulouse	13	27	2.08
8	Agen	13	26	2.00

TRIES SCORED

		P	Tr	Avge
1	Stade Français	13	77	5.92
2	Newcastle	13	63	4.85
3	Toulouse	13	58	4.46
4	Colomiers	13	55	4.23
5	Agen	13	44	3.38
6	Brive	14	43	3.07
7	Pau	13	39	3.00
8	Bath	13	35	2.75

TRIES CONCEDED

		P	Tr	Avge
1	Newcastle	13	15	1.15
2	Pau	13	17	1.31
3	Toulouse	13	24	1.85
4	Agen	13	25	1.92
	Stade Français	13	25	1.92
6	Colomiers	13	27	2.08
7	Brive	14	30	2.14
8	Bath	13	34	2.61

HEINEKEN CUP

Previous semi-finals

1995-96

Toulouse	30	Swansea	3
Leinster	14	Cardiff	23

1996-97

Leicester	37	Toulouse	11
Brive	26	Cardiff	13

Most points in a semi-final: 14: C Lamaison (Brive).

England v France

	P	W	D	L	F	A
England	15	8	0	7	380	345
France	15	7	0	8	345	380

EUROPEAN CONFERENCE

Previous semi-finals

1996-97

Bourgoin	29	Narbonne	6
Castres	23	Agen	6

England v France

	P	W	D	L	F	A
England	45	20	0	25	1109	1036
France	45	25	0	20	1036	1109

English clubs improved dramatically in the Conference this season and now have a *56 per cent success rate. Last season they* managed one win in 11 games (9 per cent).

■ *Compiled by Stephen McCormack*

RUGBY COVERAGE

TODAY: Television: Sky Sports 2: Bath v Pau, from 1.30pm (*highlights* at 11pm). Radio: BBC Radio 5 Live: Coverage of *Bath v Pau in Sport on Five*, from 1pm.

TOMORROW: Television: Sky Sports 2: Toulouse v Brive, from 3pm (highlights at *8pm*). *Channel 5: Rugby Express*, from 6pm. Radio: BBC Radio 5 Live: Coverage of Toulouse v Brive in *Sport on Sunday*, from 1pm.

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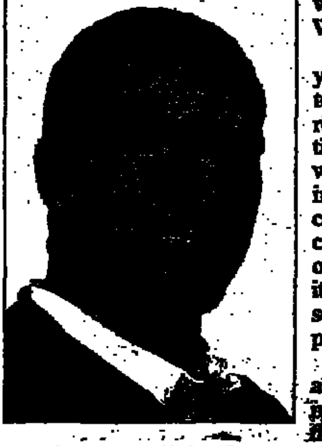
Harsh lessons to be learnt from stinging defeat

LAWRENCE DALLAGLIO



Wasps' defeat by Harlequins last weekend was probably the most humiliating rugby experience I have been involved with. It was not only the loss by a record margin, but the disappointing way in which we lost: things happened that you would never associate with Wasps — our Code Red, as regards virtues such as commitment, dedication and passion, seemed to be lacking in a game against our closest rivals, where they should have been at their highest.

I have a lot of respect for Harlequins, both as individuals and as a team, but we contributed so much to our own downfall and having been involved in such a good England performance against New Zealand the week before made the whole episode that much worse.

It will be difficult for Wasps to retain the league title now. That defeat leaves us firmly rooted among the bottom three clubs in the Allied Dunbar Premiership first division, though it is fair to say that the position can alter in a short time — there is still a lot of the season to go.

Even if we don't win the title, we will have a lot of fun stopping other clubs doing so. We are certainly capable of that because Wasps are still a side that command a tremendous amount of respect and will continue to do so. *But first our players have* to accept responsibility for the way that we want to play the game.

There is no comfort zone. If people want that, they won't find it in our first XV: I'm fairly determined about that and I think people realise it, but if you are prepared to play, to take ownership of the game and perform the basics well, then you can turn defeat into a comfortable victory.

Things such as class you can work on, or certainly buy, as many other clubs have shown, but the essential ingredients that you need to be competitive are desire and attitude and, as things went from bad to worse against Harlequins, there appeared to be a sense of giving up, which was worrying. I appreciate that we have lost a lot of experience with the departure of players such as Matt Greenwood and the decreased availability of Mike White, but we should not use that as an excuse.

The guys selected each week are highly-paid professionals who are expected to perform to the level that goes with their salaries. Perhaps the other sides that suffered 50-point thumpings over the weekend will examine themselves, too, before they go out to earn their crust again.

As matters stand, we are hardly in a position to talk about a place in Europe — the realistic target is winning the next game. We have to rebuild the confidence that is so evident in teams such as Saracens and Newcastle, who are flying. We have to set out our objectives; when you suffer a succession of defeats — I have now gone nine games without winning — and a high level of injuries, confidence in your own ability, as well as that of people around you, declines.

It has not been easy for the club management, either. Before the Harlequins game, we went four weeks when the coaches were working with the remnants of the second XV and the development team, which is a great opportunity to improve the skills of those players, but not much help as regards the XV needed to play against Harlequins.

Training must be meaningful and, if you are short of bodies in particular positions, as we are in midfield, you don't want to risk damaging those players still standing. Yet, over that month of international rugby, we were giving players to England, Scotland, Ireland and Canada, as well as having several youngsters *involved in under-21 games.* Those players have been working hard, but not with Wasps.

You become a victim of your own success. If your team plays well, players receive individual recognition and you would never want to stop players achieving their ambitions. It becomes a vicious circle. You can't have one without the other so you have to accept it, but the structure of our season does put different pressure on players.

I may be at the forefront as England captain, but it is not easy for anyone to go through this emotional and physical rollercoaster, jumping from one domestic competition to another, with internationals thrown in. Many people, myself included, would regard that *as part of the challenge.*

All of which means little when you think of what happened to Gwyn Jones last weekend. I have played with and against Gwyn. He is a very talented and intelligent player and the neck injury that he suffered playing for Cardiff is tragic. As captain of Wales, he was carrying the hopes of a country, all of whom will want to see him make as full a recovery as possible.

It is awful when something like that happens to any player, but it appears worse when it happens to one with a high profile. Everyone expects players at the top to be so fit and strong, their technique to be so good, that they won't suffer such injuries and the accident that happened to Gwyn only shows that any player, in any sport, at any time, can be affected.

It is encouraging to hear that he has been showing signs of improvement, but his welfare is bigger than the game. The first priority, for Gwyn and his family is his health and the good wishes of everyone in the game will be with him.

Jones retires, page 5

Bath fly flag for English game in Europe

By David Hands
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

BATH'S banner fluttered sadly at half-mast last Sunday, but today they must wave it proudly if they are to prevent the first all-French final in the Heineken Cup. The visit of Pau to the Recreation Ground is an opportunity for Bath to make a statement not only on their own behalf, but for English rugby as a whole.

It is no coincidence that, of the eight teams that contest the semi-finals of the Heineken Cup and the European Conference, six are French. This, of course, has not stopped France indulging in serious introspection so far as their internal club structure is concerned, a mood confirmed by the national team's mediocre form this autumn that culminated in a shattering defeat by South Africa in Paris, when France conceded 52 points.

Relative failure in Europe this season wrankles with the English clubs, who had believed themselves to be the equal, at least, of their neighbours across the Channel. The hopes of many, therefore, ride with Bath and with Newcastle, who, if they win in Agen today, will contest the conference final at Headingley with a genuine hope of winning the second-tier competition.

"The UK market for rugby is built around the clubs," Jeremy Wilton, head of sponsorship for Whitbread, said. "This competition has only been with us for three years, it's still an embryo, but we believe it can be the pre-eminent northern-hemisphere club tournament." The format for next season was under discussion by the European Rugby Cup board in Dublin yesterday, while Wilton is also involved in negotiations for future sponsorship, as the present agreement runs out after this season.

A year ago, Bath flaunted their ambition of winning the four competitions available to them: hoist with their own petard, they won none and their form this season has been spasmodic. A kindly semi-final draw, though, has given them opponents whose away form has been far from impressive and allowed them to avoid the previous Cup-winners, Toulouse and Brive, who meet at the Stade de Toulouse tomorrow.

Not that Andy Robinson, the Bath director of rugby, sees it that way. Last Sunday, in the wake of a 50-23 hiding by Saracens, Robinson's mood was not so much grim as speechless with anger; his players will have felt his wrath and been left in no doubt of the task that faces them: "We won't forget the Saracens result, but we can't dwell on it," Robinson said. "One way of beating Pau will be to do what we didn't do last Sunday and keep the ball.

"Pau are rated as the best back division in France and their forwards outscrummaged Leicester in the quarter-final. Whatever their away form has been like before, they will be up for this one." In Nicholas Brusque, Pau possess a full back whom Bob Dwyer, Leicester's director of rugby, rates as the natural successor to Jean-Luc Sadourny in the national team; his speed and his lines of running take him to places few English defences can cover amid a threequarter line that oozes pace.

Earlier in the week, Brusque was struggling with a knee injury, but he and Frédéric Torossian, the aggressive scrum half, who was the focal point of accusations of foul play by Llanelli earlier this season, have been declared fit. Henri Nieto, the Pau director of rugby, said: "We would like to play with style, as well as winning." That, though, has been their privilege at home rather than on visits to Llanelli and Perth, where they lost in pool matches, and to Treviso, where they won by a point.

Bath have been lifted by the return of Mike Catt after suffering concussion. If Adedayo Adebayo suffers no reaction after a fitness test on a back injury yesterday, he will be anxious to make a point to the England management as much as anyone, as will Mark Regan who is preferred at hooker ahead of Andy Long.

Yet if the atmosphere at the Recreation Ground is tense, it will be boiling over in Toulouse tomorrow, where 27,000 spectators will pack the municipal stadium. "We are apprehensive playing Brive because they are such a complete team and you never know where the danger will come from," Guy Noves, the Toulouse coach, said.

Newcastle, meanwhile, are optimistic that Va'aiga Tuigamala will play in midfield after recovering from a damaged calf. Their most serious doubts are to Garath Archer (*collarbone*), *Nick Popplewell and* Richard Arnold (both hamstrings), against Agen, whom they beat 13-9 in a pre-season match.

HEINEKEN CUP TEAMS

At Bath

BATH: J Callard; I Evans, P de Glanville, M Perry, A Adebayo; M Catt, A Nicol; K Yates, M Regan, V Ubogu, G Llanes, N Redman, N Thomas, R Webster, D Lyle.
PAU: N Brusque; P Bernat-Salles, D Dantiacq, F Leloir, Y Martin; D Aucagne, F Torossian; P Triep-Capdeville, J Rey, J-M Gonzales, A Lagouarde, T Cleda, S Keith, N Bacque, F Rolles.
Referee: D Bevan (Wales).

At Toulouse

TOULOUSE: S Ougier; E Ntamack, P Bondouy, Y Delaigue/N Martin, P Lapoutge; C Deylaud/Delaigue, J Cazalbou; C Califano, P Soula, F Tournaire, H Miorin, F Pelous/F Belot, D Lacroix, S Dispagne/Pelous, C Labit/Dispagne.
BRIVE: J Carrat; L Arbo, C Lamaison, D Venditti, S Carrat; L Arbizu, P Carbonneau; D Casadei, L Travers, D Laperne, E Allegret, Y Manhes, L van der Linden, O Magne, F Duboisset.
Referee: D McHugh (Ireland).

ADRIAN SHERRATT

Behind the film-star looks, De Glanville is capable of taking on the role of tough guy

Hard sell of a player born to lead

David Hands
on the strength that helped the former England captain in the face of adversity

Should Bath today win through to the final of the Heineken Cup, Phil de Glanville will have a problem. The final is scheduled for Bordeaux on January 31, the day after the projected arrival of a first child for De Glanville and Yolanda, his wife, a test of the management skills for which the Bath centre is noted.

Not that anyone at Bath is taking Pau, their semi-final opponents today, lightly — not after the 50-point demolition that the club suffered last Sunday at the hands of Saracens. It was a game that left De Glanville perplexed, wondering whether the fervent desire that has characterised Bath for more than a decade remains as strong as once it was.

Where Stuart Barnes, Simon Halliday and John Hall used to hold sway, De Glanville is now a key component at the Recreation Ground. There is an air of easy authority about him, which is remarkable considering some of the difficulties that have attended his sporting achievements. Perhaps that is what has made the past year so well worth living, even though his moments as captain of country and club have now passed.

Whatever his nominal status may be, in the realms of the leaders and the led, De Glanville is one of the former. "Communication is so important and I do a lot of that on the field," he said. Anyone can talk, but it is what De Glanville has to say and, more importantly, where he is prepared to say it that have earned him respect across the board and defined the personality of a man nicknamed at Bath both "Hollywood" (for his looks) and "Hammer" (for his more abrasive qualities).

In the past 18 months, De Glanville has found himself in the eye of Bath's peculiarly awkward translation from amateurism to professionalism: acting as players' spokesman in debate with the Rugby Football Union; at odds with Fran Cotton over selection for the British Isles tour of South Africa last summer; oh yes, captain of England, too, after the eight-year reign of Will Carling.

It is not insignificant that, while he talks, his parents, Derek and Sue, are waiting in the clubhouse for a word. De Glanville's ability to deal with the various brickbats life has hurled in his direction owes much to the stability of his background, initially from his supportive family and then from Yolanda.

He also took the conscious decision not to commit himself entirely to life as a professional rugby player. His background is in sales and marketing and one day a week he gives over to Druid Systems, the British-based systems implementation company with interests throughout Europe. "It's a different group of people, a different environment, a fresh set of problems and it keeps a link with a career into which I can go when rugby is over," De Glanville said.

Amid all this, De Glanville has also found time to cooperate in the writing of a book, *A Whole New Ball Game*, which chronicles his view of the events since rugby turned professional. Typically, the qualities that shine through the pages are those of candour and honesty. There is a direct appeal about De Glanville — he will look you, or Cotton or Jack Rowell, formidable characters both, in the eye and say what he feels.

A year ago everything in the De Glanville garden appeared to be rosy. Rowell, then England coach, named him captain of his country, preferring him at centre to Jeremy Guscott, his club colleague. However, everything began to unravel in the spring. England missed a grand slam, De Glanville missed a place on the British Isles tour, two missed tackles playing against Australia in July cast doubt on his international future and, this autumn, he was relieved of the England captaincy by the new management.

"It seems a long time ago now, but there was a feeling of exhilaration when Jack asked me to captain England, combined with a gulp about what I might be letting myself in for," De Glanville said.

"During the year I became far more relaxed, more fatalistic if you like — I gave it my best as an individual, the team did the same. When Jack made me captain he did so for the year, at least that was as far as I was looking. I regarded the game with Australia in Sydney as my last one in charge, before the position was reviewed, and there was a long three months before a *further decision was made.*

"By the time it came I had adjusted, so I wasn't disappointed. I was delighted to be in Clive Woodward's first squad and to be in the team for the southern-hemisphere series was brilliant. The relaxed approach worked, my form for the club was good and the confidence came back to my game. The biggest shock was the realisation that, at 29, I was the oldest back in the side.

"My aim was to play each of the autumn internationals as though it were my last, to go out on a high in case I wasn't picked again." De Glanville had heard all the rumours, about Guscott's form for the Lions, about the new-age men, Will Greenwood and Nick Greenstock, but the wheel goes round and his 27 caps could swell further in the new year.

"There's too many of us in the back line at the moment who are similar in approach," he said. "It's not a long-term solution for the 1999 World Cup. We have proved we can work well together, certainly in defence, though in attack we need to improve." Few would bet against De Glanville still being there, helping to oil the wheels, in two years' time.

Swansea storm on as Grabham impresses

By Mark Souster

TOULOUSE and Swansea ensured their places in the last four of *The Times* Students European Rugby Championship yesterday with their third successive wins in the final round of qualifying matches in their respective pools. The French side beat University College, Dublin 35-3 to complete an *unblemished record* in pool two, while Swansea beat Dublin 22-5 in pool one to become the second Welsh representatives in the semi-finals. University of Wales, Institute of Cardiff qualified on Thursday. The semi-final draw will be made on Monday.

David Darricarrere scored a hat-trick of tries for Toulouse and his performances this week have earned him the man-of-the-tournament award.

In a bruising encounter between Northumbria and Loughborough, the North-East university secured their only win from the pool matches, winning 19-13, but still finished bottom of their group. A downpour resulting in a waterlogged pitch at West Hartlepool meant that Swansea's game was *abandoned* after an hour with Swansea 22-5 ahead, but the result was allowed to stand. Grabham, the Swansea No 8, who has been in outstanding form, scored three tries and Harries added two conversions and a penalty goal. Shane McLoughlin scored Dublin's consolation try.

Durham finished with a flourish as they defeated hapless Roma 43-0. Dan Parkinson scored two tries, with Tim Neill, Charlie Heap, *Toby Smart*, Sam Canes and Chris Tulloch all claiming a try apiece, four of which were converted by David Walder. The most keenly contested pool was in Cork, where the last semi-final place was being contested last night by University College, Cork and Oxford. Bristol beat Cardiff Medicals 13-8 in the pool's remaining match.

Results, page 30

Ashton tries to defy history

From Karl Johnston
IN BOLOGNA

BRIAN ASHTON, the Ireland coach, speaks fluent Italian, having played and coached here for three years during the Seventies, so he will have been able to understand the match programme that was distributed to the press yesterday.

Ashton will have noted that details of the previous rugby encounters between Italy and Ireland were included in the programme for today's fourth game, to be played at the Stadio Dall'Ara this afternoon. Hopefully, he will not have been put off by the listing of *Murray Kidd, the Ireland coach* the last time the countries met, at Lansdowne Road in January; the 29-37 defeat suffered by Ireland was the New Zealander's downfall and Ashton's opportunity.

Much has changed since then. Of the then quintet of selectors, only Pat Whelan and Donal Lenihan remain, while remarkably Mark McCall, Keith Wood and Eric Miller are the only survivors from the team itself.

By contrast, the nucleus of the opposition that defeated Ireland 11 months ago will be on duty again. Not least among them are Diego Dominguez, Paolo Vaccari and the aptly-named prop, Massimo Cuttitta, who, between them, scored all Italy's points that day.

Dominguez picked up 22 points, from a try, four conversions and three penalty goals, Vaccari scored two tries and Cuttitta crossed for Italy's other try. Given that Ireland managed only a solitary try and had to rely on Paul Burke's record haul of eight penalty goals to keep the score respectable, the defeat was pretty comprehensive.

The record stands at 2-1 in Italy's favour, although the first match — in 1988 — was not an official international. But in May 1995, as a prelude to their World Cup campaign in South Africa, the Irish lost 22-12 in Treviso, becoming the first of the home countries to lose to Italy.

To say that not many Irish rugby followers agree with this particular *team selection is to put it mildly,* even allowing for injuries, which ruled out Rob Henderson, Conor McGuinness and Paul Wallace. Most people find the recall of Darragh O'Mahony at left wing instead of the in-form Richard Wallace perplexing. Also, there is surprise over the inclusion of the uncapped and largely unproven flanker, Dylan O'Grady.

Perhaps the fact that Italy will field ten of the side that defeated Ireland last time out is an indication of a lack of in-depth talent. Be that as it may, Italy will be the favourites today in wet and icy Bologna.

TEAMS

ITALY: C Pilat (Benetton); P Vaccari (Fly Flot), C Stoica (Narbonne), M Dallan (Benetton), Marcello Cuttitta (Milan); D Dominguez (Stade Français), A Troncon (Benetton); Massimo Cuttitta (Harlequins), C Orlandi (Milan), A Castellani (L'Aquila), G Croci (Milan), C Checchinato (Benetton), M Giovanelli (Narbonne, captain), A Sgorlon (Benetton), J Gardner (Benetton). Replacements: L Martin (Simac), A Scanavacca (Femi Rovigo), G Guidi (L'Aquila), O Arancio (Toulon), W Cristofoletto (Benetton), G de Carli (RDS Roma).

IRELAND: K Nowlan (St Mary's College); D Hickie (St Mary's College), K Maggs (Bristol), M McCall (London Irish), D O'Mahony (Moseley); D Humphreys (London Irish), N Hogan (London Irish); R Corrigan (Greystones), K Wood (Harlequins, captain), P Clohessy (Young Munster), P Johns (Saracens), M O'Kelly (London Irish), D Erskine (Sale), D O'Grady (Sale), E Miller (Leicester). Replacements: J Bell (Northampton), B O'Meara (Cork Constitution), E Elwood (Galwegians), A Clarke (Northampton), J Fitzpatrick (London Irish), V Costello (St Mary's College)

Referee: D Mené (France).

Unhappy Dwyer rues lost opportunities

By Mark Souster

LEICESTER and Harlequins could be forgiven for casting covetous glances at the semi-finals of the Heineken Cup this weekend. Both lost in the quarter-finals in France — Leicester at Pau and Harlequins at Toulouse — and can be forgiven for wondering about what might have been. Today, however, they must concentrate on matters closer to home and their meeting in the Allied Dunbar Premiership first division at Welford Road.

For students of statistics, the rivalry between the clubs, who both scored 50 points in their last home games, has produced some fascinating facts. In ten years of league rugby, Leicester have lost at home only 11 times; five of those defeats have been at the hands of the London club. At the same time, Leicester's away form has been unpredictable. The last time they won on their travels was in December last year against, who else, but Harlequins. Indeed, patchy away form has undermined a sustained challenge on more than one front.

How Leicester can win in Toulouse yet lose to Leinster and Northampton vexes Bob Dwyer, the coach. "We have been losing games away from home that we should not have," he said, "but we have often taken the wrong option in those matches. Against Harlequins, we must control the game."

Andy Keast, director of rugby at the Stoop Memorial Ground, is reading nothing into recent results. "If there is a hard place to win, it is at Welford Road," he said. "After their hiding by Richmond, they will be looking to sort themselves out."

The only other Premiership first division fixture this weekend is at the Athletic Ground tomorrow, where Richmond host Northampton. Northampton have been buoyed by their win over London Irish and the improvement wrought in the scrums by the arrival of Gary Pagel from South Africa.

RACING: FORMER HUNTER CHASER CAN BENEFIT FROM PROFESSIONAL HANDLING IN ASCOT CHASE

Thornton to profit again on Cool Dawn

By Chris McGrath

RACING approaches the season of goodwill in a fine, old-fashioned spirit of acrimony and avarice. In strident tones, the militant moguls of Flat racing demand extra millions to sustain their investment; administrators fret and squabble over where to find them.

Happily, however, jump racing remains a sport first and an industry second. The word "investment" sits uncomfortably next to the bolder risks daily undertaken by man and beast in National Hunt racing — often for no greater reward than the sheer sporting thrill of it.

TODAY'S RACES ON TELEVISION

Nonetheless, there comes a time when even the National Hunt fraternity considers sentiment too expensive. That threshold is crossed in the valuable Betterware Cup at Ascot today, when a professional keeps the ride on Cool Dawn, who has been partnered for most of his career by his owner, Dido Harding.

There have been just two occasions when a jockey has been paid to take the reins on Cool Dawn — in the 1996 Irish National when he finished a fine third behind Feathered Gale and Jodami and over today's course and distance last month when Andrew Thornton made all to win a handicap in emphatic fashion.

Robert Alner, who trains Cool Dawn for Miss Harding, reported that the gelding had sulked in behind when disappointing on his comeback at Wincanton previously. All the old joy and verve, however, were restored last time.

While he has undoubtedly been a bold jumper for his owner, who rode him into second in the 1996 Foxhunters' Chase at the Cheltenham Festival, Thornton might yet conjure further progress. After all, offspring of Over The River do tend to improve with age.

It would be misleading to describe Cool Dawn as well treated strictly on the basis of last month's win — having raced from out of the handicap then, he effectively runs off a 7lb lower mark — for it turned into a pretty soft race. Yet there was an authentic zest to Cool Dawn that day. Barring a blunder at the last, Thornton doing well to wrap his long legs round the horse's belly, he looked rejuvenated.

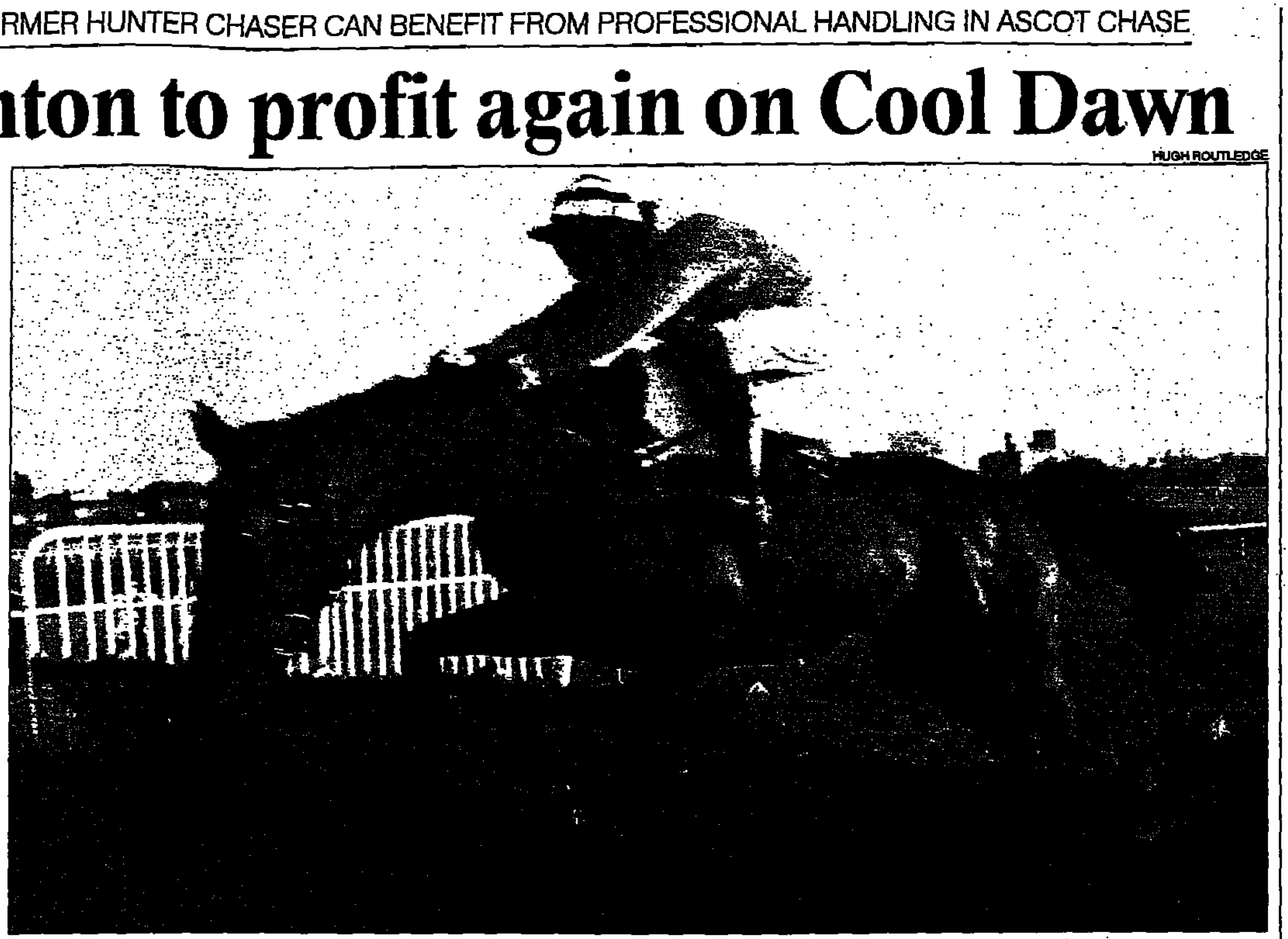
By contrast, the last two winners of this race did not look themselves on their Haydock reappearance. The trainers of both Unguided Missile and Go Ballistic have offered excuses for their failure behind Suny Bay, but each horse retains an equivocal air.

Callisoe Bay, however, is in the form of his life, most recently catching the hesitant Challenger Du Luc at Newbury. The small field will suit but his stamina is unproven, while Harwell Lad was up to his old tricks at Cheltenham. That leaves Call It A Day, who has solid form in some top handicaps last term, goes well fresh and handles cut with aplomb, as the biggest danger to **Cool Dawn** (2.20).

Three of the Smurfit Long Walk Hurdle field must shrug off a tough battle in the Bula Hurdle at Cheltenham. Pridwell confirmed his reformation with a career-best performance there, but may not be so effective over an extra mile in soft ground. Nor can one predict if he, Large Action and Bimsey have recovered from their strenuous efforts last week.

Paddy's Return may need his first run since June and prefers faster ground anyway, while Algan, winner of the King George VI Chase three years ago, will enjoy the mud but may not have the requisite zip for British hurdling. **Go-Informal** (1.45) is the runner with the fewest question marks, having resumed his progress with a typically genuine display at Newbury last month.

The Mitie Group Kennel Gate Novices' Hurdle is competitive, though the form of Polydamas has begun to look a bit porous, while Circus Star is a difficult ride. Balladur is learning fast, but further improvement may be required to beat **Wahiba Sands** (1.10), who burst Zaralaska's bubble at Leicester.


HUGH ROUTLEDGE

John Dunlop's talented Wahiba Sands, who upset the odds-on Zaralaska at Leicester, has his second run over hurdles at Ascot today

Him Of Praise can extend winning sequence

By Richard Evans, Racing Correspondent

FEATURE races do not always make for quality bets and with limited television coverage on offer today the best wagers look to be away from the gaze of the BBC cameras at Ascot.

The Haydock card makes considerable appeal with several Grand National candidates lining up in the St Helens Handicap Chase (2.10), where ***Him Of Praise*** can continue his good run. Much was expected of this big, old-fashioned chasing type last term and, although he ended the campaign on a winning note, he was generally disappointing. Oliver Sherwood, his trainer, was never happy with him.

However, the seven-year-old has looked a different proposition this season and is beginning to justify that early confidence. On his reappearance at Towcester, he jumped particularly well to beat Carole's Crusader and the runner-up franked the form by winning next time out.

Stepped up to an extended 3½ miles at Haydock three weeks ago, he improved again to see off Dom Samourai, who has also won since. Making most of the running that day, he was headed on the run-in but stayed on gamely to land the spoils.

"He loves soft ground and I will be disappointed if he doesn't stay the four-mile trip. He was only idling the other day at Haydock when in front — he was looking after his own handicap mark," Oliver Sherwood said, tongue in cheek, yesterday.

Him Of Praise has been raised only 2lb for that success and will be even more effective if he receives a lead rather than having to make all the running. Full Of Oats, who was travelling well until falling four out at Warwick last time, and Court Melody look the main dangers.

Sherwood introduces an interesting newcomer in the opening Wirral Juvenile Novices' Hurdle in the shape of Southerly Wind, who won three races on the Flat for Lynda Ramsden. Gelded since joining Sherwood, he has schooled well at home but may not be able to cope with the more experienced ***Kilbride Lad***.

The David Nicholson-trained runner has been placed twice in decent company, behind The French Furze at Cheltenham and Rainwatch at Newbury, and a reproduction of that form should suffice.

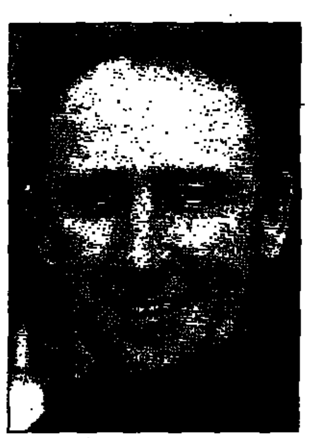
Novice chases are not my favourite betting medium but it will something of a disappointment if ***Stormy Passage*** fails oblige in the Southport Novices' Chase (1.00). Philip Hobbs has always had held this Strong Gale gelding in high regard and he won with a fair amount in hand from River Bay, a previous winner, on his chasing debut at Chepstow two weeks ago.

Not much has gone right so far this season for Paul Webber, whose horses have been under the weather. However, there have been signs in recent days that the worst is over and ***Flying Instructor*** can confirm the improvement by taking the Frogmore Handicap Chase at Ascot (2.50). Placed in high-class novice company last season, he recorded a career-best effort at Haydock behind Barnageera Boy last Saturday and looks handily weighted.

In contrast to Webber, Jim Old can do little wrong at the moment and Arkley Royal is sure to be well supported when he makes his hurdling debut in the EBF National Hunt Novices' Hurdle (2.25) at Lingfield.

The winner of two bumpers over course and distance last season, he will have been well schooled but there is nothing like racing experience and **Tree Creeper** could be a value proposition. The Andy Turnell-trained runner split Dines and Andanito at Wincanton on his seasonal reappearance and should be suited by the testing conditions today.

Rectory Garden had the advantage of race fitness when finishing just ahead of ***General Pongo*** at Uttoxeter 23 days ago, but Tom George's mud-lover can gain revenge in the opening Lefley's Hog Roast Handicap Chase at the Midland track.


Sherwood: Haydock hope

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: HIM OF PRAISE
(2.10 Haydock Park)

Next best: General Pongo
(12.20 Uttoxeter)

RACING NEXT WEEK

MONDAY: Kelso (first race, 12.50), Ludlow (1.10), Lingfield Park (AW, 1.00).

TUESDAY: no racing.

WEDNESDAY: *no racing.*

THURSDAY: no racing.

FRIDAY: Kempton Park (C4, 12.40), Ayr (12.55), Hereford (1.05), Huntingdon (1.00), Market Rasen (12.30), Newton Abbot (1.25), Sedgefield (1.00), Wetherby (12.45), Wincanton (12.50), *Wolverhampton (AW, 1.40).*

SATURDAY: Kempton Park (C4, 12.40), Chepstow (BBC, 12.20), Leicester (1.05), Wetherby (1.00).

Flat meetings in bold

ASCOT

THUNDERER

12.35 Jefferies
1.10 Wahiba Sands
1.45 Go-Informal
2.20 Go Ballistic
2.50 LEOTARD (nap)
3.20 L'Opera

Timekeeper's top rating: 2.20 GO BALLISTIC.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT (SOFT IN PLACES) TOTE JACKPOT MEETING SIS

12.35 BOOK OF MUSIC NOVICES CHASE
(Grade II: £11,720: 2m 3f 110yd) (4 runners)

101	00-1215	CHIEF'S SONG 14 (C,F,G,S) (Mrs A Devine) S Dow 7-11-10	A P McCoy	146
102	1030-12	CRACK ON 14 (D,F,G,S) (D Pappitt) P Hobbs 7-11-10	R Dunwoody	140
103	2612-31	JEFFERIES 23 (D,G) (Miss S Blumberg) J Old 8-11-7	C Llewellyn	127
104	040-127	GROUND NUT 15 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs R Haslam) R Buckler 7-11-3	B Powell	147

BETTING: 6-4 Crack On, 9-4 Ground Nut, 11-4 Chief's Song, 8-1 Jefferies.

1996: SIMPLY DASHING 5-11-7 R Dunwoody (13-8 fav) T Easterby 8 ran

FORM FOCUS Crack On 1l 2nd of 7 to Direct Route in grade II novice chase at Sandown (2m, good) with Chief's Song (same terms) 6½l 5th. Jefferies beat Sounds Like Fun 2l in 14-runner novice chase at Taunton (2m 3f, good), previously 6l 3rd of 10 to Spendid in handicap hurdle at Towcester (2m 5f, good to soft). *Ground Nut beat Lord McMurrough 12l in 8-runner novice chase at Hereford (2m 3f,* good), previously 1½l 2nd of 5 to Chief's Song (7lb worse off) in novice chase at Ascot (2m, good to soft)

GROUND NUT is weighted to reverse form with Chief's Song

1.10 MITIE GROUP KENNEL GATE NOVICES HURDLE
BBC1

(Grade II: £8,918: 2m 110yd) (9 runners)

201	2233-11	CIRCUS STAR 35 (D,G) (Ringmasters) D Nicholson 4-11-7	A Maguire	142
202	P0-11	*BALLADUR 14 (D,G,S) (Peters & Lee) Mrs J Pitman 4-11-4*	*R Farrant*	127
203	340-331	POLYDAMAS 21 (D,S) (M Boase) K Bailey 5-11-4	N Williamson	141
204	P-	FUNNY GENIE 182F (Mrs L Taylor) Mrs L Taylor 4-11-0	A Thornton	–
205	5112-00	*IRISH FROLIC 21 (G,S) (N Watts Partnership) R Rowe 5-11-0*	*D Bridgwater*	90
206		PERFECT VENUE 54F (The Martin Partnership) N Henderson 4-11-0	M A Fitzgerald	–
207	3	SOLOMAN 28 (R Eliot) J Gifford 4-11-0	L Aspell	117
208		*TRANS SIBERIA 900F (S Woods) S Woods 6-11-0*	*P Hide*	–
209	1	WAHIBA SANDS 15 (D,S) (Lord Swaythling) J Dunlop 4-11-0	A P McCoy	125

BETTING: 5-2 Wahiba Sands, 3-1 Circus Star, 5-1 Balladur, Polydamas, 8-1 Soloman, Trans Siberia, 12-1 Perfect Venue, 25-1 Irish Frolic, 66-1 Funny Genie.

1996: MAKE A STAND 5-11-7 A P McCoy (8-13 fav) M Pipe 9 ran

FORM FOCUS Circus Star beat Mr Markham ½l in 7-runner grade II novice hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 110yd, good) with Polydamas (3lb *better off) 4l 3rd. Balladur beat Neat Feat 4l in 7-runner novice* handicap hurdle at Sandown (2m 110yd, good to soft). Polydamas beat Mr Markham neck in 14-runner novice hurdle at Newbury (2m 110yd, soft) with Irish Frolic 14lb better off) 46l 10th. Funny *Genie pulled up in 4yo hurdle at Auteuil (2m 1f 110yd heavy). Soloman 15l 3rd of 10 to Zaralaska* in novice hurdle at Ascot (2m 110yd, soft). Trans Siberia consistent stayer in handicap company on Flat. Wahiba Sands beat Zaralaska 4l in 10-runner novice hurdle at Leicester (2m, soft)

POLYDAMAS finally came good at Newbury last time and can follow up

GUIDE TO OUR IN-LINE RACECARD

101 113143 GOOD TIMES 13 (BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 12-0 .... B West (7) 88

Racecard number. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing. F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Timekeeper's speed rating.

1.45 SMURFIT LONG WALK HURDLE
BBC1

(Grade I: £27,055: 3m 1f 110yd) (7 runners)

301	P-11442	ALGAN 27 (B,G,S) (Marquesa de Moratalla) F Doumen (Fr) 9-11-7	Mr T Doumen	–
302	301-P40	BIMSEY 7 (C,F,G,S) (Mrs J Ryan) C Mann 7-11-7	G Bradley	174
303	12P5/21	GO-INFORMAL 21 (F,G,S) (Marshall, Dixon & Griffin) J Jefferson 6-11-7	E Callaghan	159
304	111PP-6	*LARGE ACTION 7 (C,F,G,S) (S Stewart-Brown) O Sherwood 9-11-7*	*J A McCarthy*	182
305	F031-25	PADDY'S RETURN 175 (C,F,G) (P O'Donnell) F Murphy 5-11-7	N Williamson	148
306	32FF-P4	PLEASURE SHARED 21 (C,F,G,S) (T Eaves) P Hobbs 9-11-7	R Dunwoody	174
307	21-1112	*PRIDWELL 7 (BF,C,D,F,G,S) (Jones, Berstock & Fleet Ptnrs) M Pipe 7-11-7*	A P McCoy	181

BETTING: 6-4 Pridwell, 3-1 Go-Informal, 4-1 Large Action, 8-1 Paddy's Return, Algan, 12-1 others.

1996: OCEAN HAWK 4-11-7 C Llewellyn (7-1) N Twiston-Davies 6 ran

FORM FOCUS Algan 5l 2nd of 12 to Apple's Girl in hurdle at Auteuil (2m 4f 110yd, good). *Go-Informal beat Antapoura 2½l in 6-runner grade* II hurdle at Newbury (3m 110yd, soft) with Pleasure Shared (7lb better off) 20l 4th. Paddy's Return 20l 8th of 15 to Bog Frog in hurdle at Auteuil (3m 1f 110yd, good to soft) with *Pleasure Shared (5lb better off) pulled up and Bimsey (5lb better off) pulled up;* previously 3l 2nd of 8 to Mon Romain in hurdle at Auteuil (2m 5f 110yd, soft). Pridwell 1¾l 2nd of 8 to Relkeel in hurdle grade 2 at Cheltenham (2m 1f, good) with Large Action (same terms) 11l 6th and Bimsey (levels) 25l last

GO-INFORMAL is progressing well and will relish the testing conditions

2.20 BETTERWARE CUP
BBC1

(Handicap chase: £24,168: 3m 110yd) (6 runners)

401	22F11-6	UNGUIDED MISSILE 31 (CD,F,G,S) (D Harrison) G Richards 9-12-0	R Dunwoody	180
402	21F4P-P	GO BALLISTIC 31 (CD,F,G,S) (Mrs E Lockhart) J G O'Shea 8-11-1	M A Fitzgerald	185
403	0025-11	*CALLISOE BAY 22 (F,G,S) (R Waters) O Sherwood 8-10-12*	J A McCarthy	175
404	/P121-5	HARWELL LAD 8 (D,F,G,S) (H Wellstead) R Alner 8-10-9	Mr R Nuttall	179
405	131454-	CALL IT A DAY 260 (G,S) (Mrs J Lane) D Nicholson 7-10-9	A Maguire	179
406	23/4-01	*COOL DAWN 28 (CD,F,G,S) (Hon Miss D Harding) R Alner 9-10-5*	*A Thornton*	178

BETTING: 5-2 Cool Dawn, 11-4 Callisoe Bay, 3-1 Call It A Day, 7-2 Unguided Missile, 10-1 Go Ballistic, 12-1 Harwell Lad.

1996: GO BALLISTIC 7-10-0 A P McCoy (4-1 fav) J O'Shea 9 ran

FORM FOCUS Unguided Missile 43l 6th of 10 to Suny Bay in handicap chase at Haydock (3m, good) with Go Ballistic (same terms) pulled up. Callisoe Bay beat Challenger Du Luc neck in 4-runner handicap *chase at Newbury (2m 4f, good to soft). Harwell Lad 86l last of 5 to Yorkshire Gale in handicap* chase at Cheltenham (3m 1f 110yd, good), previously beat Flyer's Nap 4l in 9-runner grade III handicap chase at Sandown (3m 5f 110yd, good to soft). Call It A Day 6l 4th of 7 to Unguided Missile (same terms) in handicap chase at Aintree (3m 1f, good), previously 3½l 5th of 14 to Flyer's Nap in handicap chase at Cheltenham (3m 1f, good to firm). Cool Dawn beat Glemot 6l in 5-runner handicap chase at Ascot (3m 110yd, good to soft)

COOL DAWN has thrived since having professional assistance from the saddle

2.50 FROGMORE HANDICAP CHASE (£9,403: 2m) (7 runners)

501	F42-311	SUPER TACTICS 31 (D,F,G,S) (H Perry) R Alner 9-12-0	A Thornton	168
502	3164-33	STORM ALERT 29 (CD,F,G,S) (Mrs D Perratt) D Nicholson 11-11-13	A Maguire	[illegible]
503	F2-1545	*CELIBATE 14 (D,F,G,S) (Stanford Bridge Ptnrs) C Mann 6-11-7*	M A Fitzgerald	170
504	1/33-21	LEOTARD 29 (CD,F,G,S) (Mrs P Hartley) Miss V Williams 10-11-7	N Williamson	168
505	312624-	LORD DORCET 242 (CD,F,G,S) (J Hogg) J Charlton 7-11-5	A P McCoy	174
506	3F31-32	FLYING INSTRUCTOR 7 (BF,D,F,G,S) (Lady Lyell) P R Webber 7-11-1	G Bradley	170
507	2540-01	KIBREET 7 (CD,F,G,S) (Mrs J Emery) P Hobbs 10-11-0	R Dunwoody	168

BETTING: 3-1 Leotard, 7-2 Storm Alert, 4-1 Super Tactics, 11-2 Kibreet, 8-1 Celibate, Lord Dorcet, Flying Instructor.

1996: STORM ALERT 10-11-11 A Maguire (3-1) D Nicholson 5 ran

FORM FOCUS Super Tactics beat Givemtime 11l in 5-runner handicap chase at Kempton (2m 4f 110yd, good to soft); previously beat Strong *Medicine 1¾l in 3-runner handicap chase at Newbury (2m 4f,* good to firm). Celibate 20l 5th of 7 to Ask Tom in grade I chase at Sandown (2m, good to soft); previously 14l 4th of 5 to Cumbrian Challenge in handicap chase at Wetherby (2m, good). Leotard beat *Arctic Kinsman 6l in 6-runner handicap chase at Ascot (2m, soft) with Storm Alert (7lb better* off) 7l 3rd. Lord Dorcet 8¼l 4th of 7 to Klairon Davis in grade I handicap chase at Punchestown (2m, good); previously 7l 2nd of 10 to Down The Fell in grade II handicap chase at Aintree (2m, good) with Celibate (3lb worse off) fell. Flying Instructor 6l 2nd of 5 to Barnageera Boy in handicap chase at Haydock (2m, good to soft); previously 16l 3rd of 7 to Call Equiname in handicap chase at Cheltenham (2m, good). Kibreet beat Seek The Faith 1¾l in 4-runner handicap chase at Cheltenham (2m 110yd, good); previously 47l last of 8 to Indian Jockey in handicap chase at Ascot (2m, good).

LEOTARD can maintain his excellent record over this course and distance

3.20 JOHN BOWLER KNIGHTS ROYAL HURDLE
(£8,091: 2m 110yd) (5 runners)

601	F4-4002	BLOWING WIND 34 (G) (P Deal) M Pipe 4-11-10	A P McCoy	–
602	14F-	L'OPERA 261 (BF,D,S) (Sheikh A al-Maktoum) D Nicholson 4-11-5	A Maguire	138
603	1140-2	*I'M SUPPOSIN 21 (D,S) (N Cooper) R Rowe 5-11-2*	*D Bridgwater*	[illegible]
604	115-22	MR MARKHAM 21 (D,G,S) (Felix Rosenstiel's Widow & Son) J Gifford 5-10-12	P Hide	151
605	1212F2-	SHARPICAL 231 (D,G,S) (Thurloe Thoroughbreds III) N Henderson 5-10-12	M A Fitzgerald	155

BETTING: 4-6 I'm Supposin, 5-1 L'Opera, 6-1 Mr Markham, Sharpical, 10-1 Blowing Wind.

1996: MISTINGUETT 4-10-11 C Llewellyn (11-2) N Twiston-Davies 9 ran

FORM FOCUS Blowing Wind 4l 2nd of 13 to Flying Scottish in claiming hurdle at Auteuil (2m 2f, good to soft); previously 21l 7th of 12 to River Work in handicap hurdle at Auteuil (2m 2f, good). *L'Opera fell in* grade II novice hurdle at Aintree (2m 110yd, good); previously 4l 4th of 28 to Commanche Court in grade I hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 1f, good). I'm Supposin 13l 2nd of 5 to Sanmartino in grade II hurdle at Newbury (2m 110yd, soft); previously 14l 7th of 11 to Shadow Leader in grade II hurdle at Ayr (2m, good). Mr Markham neck 2nd of 14 to Polydamas in novice hurdle at Newbury (2m 110yd, soft); previously ½l 2nd of 7 to Circus Star in grade II *novice* hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 110yd, good). Sharpical 2l 2nd of 4 to Smolensk in novice hurdle at Haydock (2m, good to firm); previously grade II novice hurdle at Punchestown (2m, good)

I'M SUPPOSIN can see off some up-and-coming rivals

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rns	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
Miss V Williams	3	8	37.5	A Thornton	4	14	28.6
S Dow	5	18	27.8	A P McCoy	23	83	27.7
J O'Shea	3	11	27.3	A Maguire	21	98	21.4
D Nicholson	18	72	25.0	R Dunwoody	22	125	17.6
M Pipe	18	74	24.3	C Llewellyn	11	73	15.1
R Alner	6	31	19.4	M A Fitzgerald	17	122	13.9

HAYDOCK PARK

THUNDERER

12.25 Jazz Track. 1.00 Jymjam Johnny. 1.35 Star Selection. 2.10 Him Of Praise. 2.40 Majestic Sound. 3.10 Even Blue. 3.40 Festive Teak.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT (SOFT IN PLACES) SIS

12.25 *WIRRAL JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE*
(3-Y-O: £3,060: 2m) (14 runners)

1		BRAVE ENVOY 51F M Heaton-Ellis 10-12	P Niven	–
2		COBLE 117F D McCain 10-12	T Jenks	–
3		HEART FULL OF SOUL 80F P Shakespeare 10-12	W McFarland	–
4	2	JAZZ TRACK 16 M Pipe 10-12	C Maude	105
5	32	KILBRIDE LAD 22 D Nicholson 10-12	R Johnson	128
6		SOUTHERLY WIND 77F O Sherwood 10-12	P Carberry	–
7	20	WARRLIN 16 C Fairhurst 10-12	J Callaghan	100
8	5F0	WEET AND SEE 16 T Wall 10-12	E Husband (3)	84
9		AVRO AVIAN 152F M Camacho 10-7	L Wyer	–
10	6	BOLLERO 17 J Berry 10-7	D Parker	60
11		MARSH MARIGOLD 152F G Fierro 10-7	X Aizpuru (5)	–
12		MARYTAVY 103F P R Webber 10-7	R Garritty	–
13	FP	MOONSPELL 23 (B) M Wilkinson 10-7	S Curran	–
14	3U5	MUSTANG SCALLY 16 J Mackie 10-7	T Eley	99

11-8 Kilbride Lad, 9-4 Jazz Track, 9-2 Southerly Wind, 10-1 Brave Envoy, 14-1 Marytavy, Avro Avian, 16-1 Warrlin, 20-1 others.

1.00 SOUTHPORT NOVICES CHASE
(£4,577: 2m 4f) (5)

1	-331	DIWALI DANCER 10 (D,F,G,S) M Pipe 7-11-5	C Maude	133
2	10-1	STORMY PASSAGE 14 (D,S) P Hobbs 7-11-5	R Johnson	126
3	-321	JYMJAM JOHNNY 3 (D,S) J J O'Neill 8-11-5	P Carberry	128
4	562/	BALLYVAUGHAN 595 E Elliott 7-11-0	D Parker	–
5	2/F-	GALES OF LAUGHTER 407 T Forster 8-11-0	Mr J Tizzard (5)	–

6-4 Stormy Passage, 2-1 Diwali Dancer, 7-2 Jymjam Johnny, 7-1 Gales Of Laughter, 33-1 Ballyvaughan.

1.35 *WIDNES HANDICAP HURDLE* (£3,225: 2m) (5)

1	5-34	STAR SELECTION 21 (D,S) J Mackie 6-11-12	E Husband (3)	143
2	0400	*GREENBACK 14 (D,F,G,S) P Hobbs 6-11-11*	*C Maude*	134
3	2110	SAINT CIEL 14 (CD,G,S) F Jordan 9-11-1	R Johnson	133
4	3202	QUANGO 7 (G) J FitzGerald 5-10-13	P Carberry	131
5	0-41	*RANGER SLOANE 17 (D,G,S) G Fierro 5-10-0*	X Aizpuru (5)	122

5-2 Star Selection, 3-1 Saint Ciel, 4-1 Greenback, Quango, 9-2 Ranger Sloane.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: T Forster, 4 winners from 9 runners, 44.4%; F Jordan, 5 from 14, 35.7%; J Fitzgerald, 14 from 55, 25.5%; O Sherwood, 4 from *16, 25.0%; N Twiston-Davies, 18 from 73, 24.7%.*

JOCKEYS: C Maude, 8 winners from 36 rides, 22.2%; F Leahy, 3 from 18, 16.7%; L Wyer, 9 from 62, 14.5%; T Jenks, 3 from 21, 14.3%; P Niven, 10 from 75, 13.3%; R Garritty, 5 from 41, 12.2%.

2.10 ST HELENS HANDICAP CHASE
(£6,730: 4m 110yd) (8)

1	10-6	TURNING TRIX 14 (G,S) D Nicholson 10-12-0	R Johnson	145
2	3-22	COURT MELODY 28 (B,G,S) P Nicholls 9-11-11	Mr J Tizzard (5)	147
3	00-U	KILLESHIN 14 (G,S) H Manners 11-11-10	S Curran	149
4	3F-F	FULL OF OATS 21 (B,S) Miss H Knight 11-11-6	R Garritty	147
5	R-45	GRANGE BRAKE 21 (B,F,G,S) N T-Davies 11-11-6	C Maude	123
6	1-11	HIM OF PRAISE 21 (C,G,S) O Sherwood 7-11-3	P Niven	145
7	P0-4	FRONT LINE 23 (C,D,S) J J O'Neill 10-10-5	P Carberry	135
8	2-43	OFF THE BRU 47 (F,G,S) Mrs S Bradburne 12-10-0	Mr M Bradburne (5)	127

9-4 Him Of Praise, 7-2 Court Melody, 11-2 Turning Trix, 7-1 Grange Brake, 8-1 Full Of Oats, 10-1 Front Line, Off The Bru, 12-1 Killeshin.

2.40 EBF NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE
(Qualifier: £2,906: 2m) (7)

1	-F31	STONESBY 17 (G) G M Moore 5-11-5	J Callaghan	102
2	3-42	AMLWCH 34 J Berry 4-11-0	D Parker	–
3	34-2	BOMBADIL 22 Mrs S Lamyman 5-11-0	P Niven	104
4	3-	GALESHAN 273 G Richards 5-11-0	B Harding (3)	–
5		LORD YORK T Forster 5-11-0	P Carberry	–
6	00/0	MAJESTIC SOUND 38 T Forster 6-11-0	R Johnson	115
7	0-40	MICHIGAN BLUE 26 W Jenks 5-11-0	T Jenks	–

11-4 Stonesby, 3-1 Galeshan, 4-1 Lord York, 9-2 Amlwch, 11-2 Bombadil, 14-1 Majestic Sound, 33-1 Michigan Blue.

3.10 BOSTON PIT HANDICAP CHASE
(£4,622: 3m 4f) (8)

1	103-	PARSONS BOY 291 (C,G,S) G Richards 8-11-12	B Harding (3)	130
2	1-32	BEACHY HEAD 14 (D,G,S) J J O'Neill 9-11-9	R Johnson	147
3	0-43	VALIANT WARRIOR 28 (CD,F,G,S) M Hammond 9-11-8	R Garritty	154
4	54-3	EVEN BLUE 22 (D,S) Mrs C Black 9-10-13	C Maude	135
5	33U5	*SPANISH LIGHT 45 (CD,F,S) Sir J Barlow Bt 9-10-13*	P Niven	[illegible]
6	1P4-	*DISTINCTIVE 264 (D,G,S) M Wilkinson 8-10-12*	T Jenks	133
7	2-20	RUSTIC AIR 16 (BF,D,F,G,S) J FitzGerald 10-10-7	P Carberry	149
8	P-02	HIGH ALLTITUDE 17 (D,G,S) M Heaton-Ellis 9-10-3	L Wyer	145

3-1 Beachy Head, 4-1 Valiant Warrior, 9-2 Rustic Air, 6-1 High Alltitude, 7-1 Parsons Boy, 8-1 Even Blue, 10-1 Distinctive, 16-1 Spanish Light.

3.40 *THELWALL STANDARD OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE* (£1,306: 2m) (9)

1	F-1	FESTIVE TEAK 19 (D,S) D Nicholson 5-11-11	R Massey (3)	–
2	0-0	MAGNUS MAXIMUS 56 Mrs S Lamyman 5-11-4	P Niven	–
3		PREMIER CRU M Todhunter 5-11-4	P Carberry	–
4	0	TELL MONTY 58 Mrs J Brown 5-11-4	L Wyer	–
5	62-	TIME WARRIOR 239 G M Moore 6-11-4	N Hagerty (7)	–
6	5/0-	WESTERLY 264 J FitzGerald 6-11-4	F Leahy (5)	–
7	06-	AILSAE 217 Mrs J Brown 4-10-13	G Lee	–
8	0	SUPREME SPICE 29 F Murphy 4-10-13	M Foster	–
9	0	THE POLECAT 196 W Jenks 5-10-13	T Jenks	–

4-7 Festive Teak, 11-2 Time Warrior, 7-1 Premier Cru, 8-1 Westerly, 16-1 Supreme Spice, 33-1 Magnus Maximus, Tell Monty, Ailsae, The Polecat.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Haydock Park: 12.25 Moonspell. *Lingfield Park:* 12.15 Province, 1.50 Aunt Daphne. Uttoxeter: 12.55 What Jim Wants, 12.55 Alzotic.

LINGFIELD PARK

THUNDERER

12.15 Nessun Doro. 12.50 Gratomi. 1.20 Miss Roberto. 1.50 Teaatral. 2.25 Arkley Royal. 2.55 Thermal Warrior. 3.25 Polar Rambler.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT (SOFT IN PLACES) SIS

12.15 BRANDY BUTTER CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,323: 2m 110yd) (4 runners)

1	1122	NOBLE TOM 11 (BF,D,F,G) P Eccles 5-12-0	M Donne
2	16-2	KELLY MAC 11 (D,F,G,S) D O'Brien 7-11-9	J Goldstein (4)
3	52/2	NESSUN DORO 16 (D,S) S Mellor 5-11-4	C Webb
4	-543	PROVINCE 15 (B) C Mann 4-10-10	J Magee

6-4 Noble Tom, 5-2 Nessun Doro, 11-4 Kelly Mac, 6-1 Province.

12.50 PORT & STILTON NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE (£2,667: 2m) (9)

1	5-34	WONDERFULL POLLY 32 (D,G) P Nicholls 6-11-10	L Cummins (5)
2	1682	GRATOMI 12 (F,G) [illegible] 7-11-7	S Fox
3	2026	GRAND APPLAUSE 60 (D,G) J Smith 7-11-7	Mr O McPhail (7)
4	P-1P	MYSTIC COURT 25 (D,S) A Turnell 6-11-4	C Rae (7)
5	50-P	VENDOON 11 (D,S) M Heaton-Ellis 7-10-11	B Clifford
6	3243	CAN'T SAY 12 J Bradley 5-10-11	B Fenton
7	4-RP	ONEOFUS 31 (F) Mrs L Richards 8-10-10	M Richards
8	2P64	HIGHLAND FLAME 9 A Blackmore 8-10-8	P Henley (3)
9	P-54	COOL SPOT 11 G Enright 9-10-7	R Bellamy

7-4 Gratomi, 4-1 Wonderfull Polly, Mystic Court, 7-1 Grand Applause, Can't Say, 12-1 Highland Flame, 20-1 *Cool Spot*, 25-1 others.

1.20 HBLB CHRISTMAS MARES ONLY HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,385: 2m 3f 110yd) (4)

1	1111	NATIVE SHORE 21 (F,G,S) C Mann 5-12-0	Mr K R O'Ryan (7)
2	4122	MISS ROBERTO 14 (G,S) J O'Shea 4-11-6	Michael Brennan (3)
3	31-0	*TAKEAMEMO 23 (S) O Sherwood 4-11-5*	*M Richards*
4	-163	MERILENA 17 (F,G) G Hubbard 7-10-7	B Fenton

4-5 Native Shore, 3-1 Miss Roberto, 5-1 Merilena, 7-1 Takeamemo.

1.50 *PLUM PUDDING JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE* (3-Y-O: £2,546: 2m 110yd) (12)

1	6	HEUBACH BOY 9 J Pearce 10-12	J Ryan
2		JESTER MINUTE 57F B Pearce 10-12	P Henley (3)
3	P	MYSTIC RIDGE 5 B Curley 10-12	Mr K R O'Ryan (7)
4	5	ORIENTAL STYLE 39 G Balding 10-12	B Clifford
5	2	SWING WEST 117F (BF) P Eccles 10-12	D Gallagher
6		TEAATRAL 119F C Egerton 10-12	B Fenton
7	403	ZAFARELLI 7 J Jenkins 10-12	J R Kavanagh
8	P	AUNT DAPHNE 31 (B) Mrs L Richards 10-7	M Richards
9	4	*CAVALRY 46 P R Webber 10-7*	*Mr P Scott*
10		SIFWA 18F D O'Brien 10-7	J Goldstein (7)
11		SWEET EMMALINE 385F C Hemsley 10-7	Miss A Dudley (7)
12		*WONTCOSTALOTBUT 164F M Wilkinson 10-7*	*I Lawrence*

5-2 Swing West, 7-2 Teaatral, 4-1 Zafarelli, 7-1 Mystic Ridge, 8-1 others.

2.25 EBF NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE
(Qualifier: £2,384: 2m 110yd) (11)

1	113-	ARKLEY ROYAL 315 (D,S) J Old 6-11-0	C Llewellyn
2	/60-	COOL AS A CUCUMBER 302 O Sherwood 6-11-0	M Richards
3	P	DERRY'S GLORY 15 P Hedger 5-11-0	I Lawrence
4	55-0	EMBARGO 15 J Dunlop 5-11-0	Mr H Dunlop (7)
5	352-	MASTER PILGRIM 297 (BF) G Balding 5-11-0	B Fenton
6	P0	PURE AIR 16 Mrs C Hicks 5-11-0	R Bellamy
7	4-	ROYAL TOAST 213 N Henderson 5-11-0	J R Kavanagh
8	P0P/	RUSSIAN RIVER 717 J Bridger 5-11-0	B Clifford
9	43-2	TREE CREEPER 42 A Turnell 5-11-0	L Harvey
10	0P	PETITE RISK 15 A Turnell 6-10-9	C Rae (7)
11	004-	YARSLEY JESTER 277 D Grissell 5-10-9	P Henley (3)

2-1 Arkley Royal, 5-2 Tree Creeper, 5-1 Master Pilgrim, 7-1 Royal Toast, 8-1 Cool As A Cucumber, 16-1 Embargo, 20-1 Yarsley Jester, 33-1 others.

2.55 MAC VIDI NOVICES CHASE (£3,259: 3m) (10)

1	-3F1	DANCETILLYOUDROP 25 (S) P Nicholls 6-11-5	B Powell
2	23-1	THERMAL WARRIOR 14 (D,G,S) J Old 9-11-5	C Llewellyn
3	34/	DUN COADY 604 (D,S) K Bailey 8-10-12	P Henley (3)
4	63P6	JAVELIN COOL 11 G Hubbard 6-10-12	Michael Brennan (3)
5	32/3	LETS RUMBLE 11 (BF,D,S) R Alner 8-10-12	P Holley
6	342-	TAKE THE BUCKSKIN 310 (D,F,S) C Mann 10-10-12	J Magee (3)
7	04P0	CASTLE BARRY 11 A M Newton-Smith 6-10-7	J Goldstein (7)
8	0	HUNGARIAN QUEEN 29 G Balding 6-10-7	B Fenton
9	00-	PHILISITATE 216 J Ffitch-Heyes 8-10-7	L Cummins (5)
10	P/P-	TARTAN GLORY 300P R Ledger 7-10-7	Mrs N Ledger

9-4 Take The Buckskin, 5-2 Thermal Warrior, 4-1 Dancetillyoudrop, 11-2 Lets *Rumble, 12-1 Dun Coady*, 16-1 Javelin Cool, Hungarian Queen, 25-1 others.

3.25 HOLLY & IVY MAIDEN OPEN NATIONAL *HUNT FLAT RACE* (£1,329: 2m 110yd) (15)

1		BELOW THE SALT J Dunlop 4-11-5	Mr H Dunlop (7)
2		*HOTPOT C Hemsley 4-11-5*	*Miss A Dudley (7)*
3	60	LOOK SHARPER 26 R Buckler 4-11-5	B Powell
4		MOLDOVA D Grissell 4-11-5	J R Kavanagh
5		PAMPERED PILOT Miss L Bower 4-11-5	L Harvey
6		POLAR RAMBLER J Old 6-11-5	C Llewellyn
7	43-	REPEAT OFFER 364 P Cundell 5-11-5	D Gallagher
8	03-	*ROCKET RON 554 N Berry 5-11-5*	C Webb (5)
9	0	ROYAL VALOR 26 J Ffitch-Heyes 5-11-5	J Goldstein (7)
10		THE OLD BAWNEOGUES G L Moore 4-11-5	M Batchelor (7)
11		THE PICKLED DUKE T George 5-11-5	Mr O McPhail (7)
12		KALE J Bridger 5-11-0	L Aspell (3)
13	4	SOLOISM 24 R Alner 4-11-0	N Willmington (7)
14	0	STRONG SPICE 12 Mrs C Hicks 6-11-0	R Bellamy
15		TINKERS NIGHT W Musson 6-11-0	B Fenton

9-4 Repeat Offer, 7-2 Polar Rambler, 4-1 Below The Salt, 8-1 Soloism, 10-1 Tinkers Night, 16-1 Rocket Ron, The Old Bawneogues, 20-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: A Turnell, 10 winners from 34 runners, 29.4%; C Mann, 3 from 11, 27.3%; G L Moore, 9 from 33, 27.3%; J Old, 7 from 26, 26.9%; N Henderson, 5 from 20, 25.0%; *P Nicholls, 7 from 28, 25.0%.*

JOCKEYS: A Bates, 6 winners from 12 rides, 50.0%; C Llewellyn, 6 from 31, 19.4%; J Kavanagh, 6 from 39, 15.4%; D Gallagher, 9 from 74, 12.2%.

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2/1 Cool Dawn
10/3 Callisoe Bay
10/3 Unguided Missile
4/1 Call It A Day
10/1 Go Ballistic
11/1 Harwell Lad

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هكذا من الاصل

One woman is about to challenge the idea that a British team for elite equestrian events should be for men only

Lampard is ready to leap over final fence

SIMON BARNES

Talking horse

If I ever write an autobiography of my competitive career (a highly unlikely eventuality), I shall call it *Beaten by Schoolgirls*. That should ensure a bidding war among the tabloids and, besides, it would reflect one essential truth of horsey life.

Anyone who competes at local show level must learn to love a beating at the hands of a schoolgirl. It happens time and again: your blazing jump-off time is beaten out of sight by some 16-year-old girl riding a 14.3 that can stop and turn on a sixpence; she, of course, has never seen a sixpence.

If you like the horsey life, at a non-professional level, then it helps to like women. You spend much of your time surrounded by them: *aux arbres de jeunes filles en jodhpurs*. Me, I always say I like horses because I haven't discovered boys yet.

But in all the horsey disciplines, the closer you get to elite sport, the fewer women you find. And this is true even in showjumping: an area of sport famous for its galaxies of female winners. Today at Olympia, the top class of the week-long show has a start list of 20: and only two riders are women.

One of these is Veronique Whitaker, the estranged wife of Michael; the other is Di Lampard. I did not suggest to Lampard that this imbalance had come about because boys can ride better than girls. "Olympic potential," she said of her top horse, Abbeville Dream. And that means the partnership, not the horse on its own.

It is a strange thing, this male take-over of a sport that, at the bottom of the pyramid, is almost exclusively female. It is as if males had taken over synchronised swimming — but only at the Olympic Games. The lack of elite female riders was one of the matters addressed by the working party, which was gathered together by the British Show Jumping Association to look at the sport's failings, its virtues and its future.

The report will be published in the new year, but I know what it will say because I was a member of the working party. We agreed that one of the sport's attractions was the equal terms business: men against women, head to head and may the best human or equine win.

The sport suffers from Golden Agery: but at least the Golden Age of showjumping existed. Showjumping really was primetime television, showjumpers were regularly voted Sports Personality of the Year, and the nation conjured with such names as Marion Coates, Pat Smythe and Annelie Drummond-Hay.

Since those days, women have made grounds in just about every area of sport. There is even a serious likelihood of women being permitted to join MCC in the new year, a last bastion if ever there was one. On their home ground of showjumping, though, women have been squeezed out. In showjumping, time has run backwards. Women have moved from winners to second-class citizens.

HUGH ROUTLEDGE

Lampard at the Olympia stables with Equity, left, and Abbeville Dream, the horse with wings on its heels. If it trains on, and stays sound, the partnership should pay dividends

Lampard has no doubts about the principal reason for this. Ronnie Masarella, the Great Britain team manager, has said, simply enough, that women are not as good as men and that, given equal rivals for the same place on the team, he will always choose the male and drop the female.

Lampard, surprisingly, likes Masarella. She also, unsurprisingly, profoundly disagrees with him. "He brought this about and I'd say that if he was sitting here," she insisted. No doubt she has done, and will again, but the real task is to make herself and Abbeville Dream undroppable. She is on the right track: nothing in the horsey life is better than an improving horse: a horse of huge potential and you have not begun to reach the bottom of it.

But the glass ceiling of showjumping is more than one man's whim. The sport's fall from the Golden Age has hit women harder than it has men. There are very few top-level shows in this country. To seek big events and elite competition, a rider must travel to the Continent — and do so again and again.

It is a hard, dispiriting, relentless business and it can be very expensive of private and family life. A top showjumper spends as much time on the road as a minicab driver. It is a hard life, even though it is one full of horses and lit with sudden shafts of glory.

Lampard has a son, Henry, aged six, and that gives her and her partner a delicate juggling act. Lampard is an individual with plenty of ability to focus, but she also requires the ability to be, as it were, an intermittent monomaniac. She has no wish to run a family at long range.

It works, it is working, there is no doubt of that. For, at 40, she has not only the new-kindled fire of that exciting decade, but also the horse to take her where she wants to be. That is always the great thing for anyone involved in the professional horse sports.

Naturally, it is harder for a woman, perceived to be at a disadvantage, to get a horse with elite potential. It is easier for the Whitakers, but that still doesn't make it easy.

Lampard is not about to whinge about that particular problem, because as far as she, at least, is concerned, it has solved itself: enthusiastic owners, one of whom had a dream of the horse's future success. And with the owners came a horse with wings on his heels.

A strange animal, too, as I visited him in his box. Not hostile, not shovingly friendly, not jumpy and alarmed. There was something of the cat about him: the same self-contained diffidence. He allowed himself to be patted, since the approach was made with tact and circumspection. Gave very little of himself, cat-like.

Pick the pocket of a horse-person and you end up with no money but plenty of extra-strong mints. Abbeville Dream ate my mints without going overboard with gratitude or greed. This is a horse with a singular nature.

Once you have the horse, you are no longer playing with a stacked deck. A horse, a horse: it is the cry of everybody in the horsey sports. Every apprentice jockey knows that if he had a horse fast enough, he would win the Derby. It is one of the oldest jokes in racing, the jockey criticised for losing a race, apologising: "I couldn't go without the horse, my lord." The crucial skill of the aspiring jockey and trainer as not so much riding and training good horses, as getting hold of good horses in the first place. Once you are established as a good trainer, the good horses come to you as of right.

But Lampard has got her horse, and if he continues to train on, and — the biggest if of all in the horsey life — if he stays sound, there is a good deal more to be seen from the partnership. She is not doing it for the cause, of course. Professional athletes are not in the business of doing things for causes. She is not even doing it for the laudable aim of stuffing it up Masarella, though that would be a passing pleasure.

She is doing it for the same reason as everybody else out in the ring today: for the pursuit of victory. Doing it for herself. And for the horse, of course.

Imperial Call faces more hurdles on way to Cheltenham

By Chris McGrath

IMPERIAL CALL, the 1996 Gold Cup winner, continues his tortuous journey back to the top of the chasing ladder with an outing over hurdles at Navan today. Having missed a few days' work after his comeback against Dorans Pride at Clonmel last month, Imperial Call is thought to need this unconventional preparation for a rematch in the Ericsson Chase at Leopardstown's Christmas meeting.

Fergie Sutherland endured a frustrating time with Imperial Call last season, the gelding eventually being pulled up when defending his crown at Cheltenham. But he showed much of his old dash at Clonmel, albeit in a race that turned into a sprint over the last two fences — at precisely which stage he blew up.

It will probably be no easier to interpret today's performance. He will, naturally, do well to handle the smaller obstacles half as well as his 15 specialist opponents — notably Cockney Lad, outstayed by Istabraq at Fairyhouse last time, but expected to confirm previous course and distance form with Theatreworld.

Rough Quest, runner-up to Imperial Call at Cheltenham before his brilliant win in the Martell Grand National, has likewise had his problems since. Yesterday, however, Terry Casey declared him ready for the Pertemps King George VI Chase at Kempton on Boxing Day. After riding Rough Quest in some light work, the trainer was persuaded that the gelding has taken last weekend's comeback, behind The Grey Monk at Haydock, in his stride.

There were ten other King George acceptors yesterday, though the field will diminish further. Algan and Go Ballistic are in action at Ascot today, while Djeddah and Senor El Betrutti will not run if conditions remain testing. Challenger Du Luc has an alternative engagement in the Rowland Meyrick Chase at Wetherby the same day (when potential opponents include Sparky Gayle). The remaining Kempton acceptors are One Man, Suny Bay, Barton Bank, See More Business and Yorkshire Gale.

Rough Quest's successor as Grand National winner was Lord Gyllene, now out for the season after training problems of his own. Steve Brookshaw, his trainer, at least has the consolation of another rising star in Listen Timmy, who made it three wins from three visits to Uttoxeter yesterday. He quickened away in the home straight and will now be raised in class for the Dipper Novices' Chase at Newcastle on January 17.

Make A Stand ruled out for rest of season

BOOKMAKERS were forced to revise their Smurfit Champion Hurdle prices yesterday after it was revealed that last year's winner, Make A Stand, is unlikely to run again this season.

Istabraq has been trimmed half a point by William Hill and heads the Champion betting at 9-2. The same horse is the 5-1 clear favourite with Ladbrokes, while Istabraq shares that price with Shadow Leader in the Coral list.

Make A Stand has heat in his near-fore and his trainer, Martin Pipe, has already scrapped plans to run the six-year-old in the Pertemps Christmas Hurdle at Kempton. Pipe's assistant, Chester Barnes, said: "Things are not looking too good so I think the guv'nor has decided to give him a season off."

Make A Stand, an impressive all-the-way winner in the Champion Hurdle last March, has been off the course since finishing a well-beaten third to Bimsey in the Martell Aintree Hurdle at the Grand National meeting.

Ian Balding has earmarked the Tolworth Hurdle at Sandown on January 10 for Grey Shot's next appearance. The grey earnt a 16-1 quote for the Champion after his impressive Taunton success, but Balding has yet to decide whether Grey Shot will take his chance at Cheltenham.

UTTOXETER

THUNDERER

12.20 General Pongo. 12.55 Now We Know. 1.30 Bold Gait. 2.00 Henry Cone. 2.30 Beggars Banquet. 3.00 Lake Kariba. 3.30 Sumthyne Special.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT (SOFT IN PLACES) SIS

12.20 LEFLEYS HOG ROAST HANDICAP CHASE (£4,182: 3m) (4 runners)

1	2-22	RECTORY GARDEN 23 (BF,C,D,G,S) T Forster 8-11-12	J Culloty
2	PP-3	GENERAL PONGO 23 (C,G,S) T George 8-11-7	R Thornton
3	11F-	ORCHESTRAL SUITE 261 (BF,D,G,S) Mrs G Pidgeon 9-11-4	Mr R White (5)
4	114-	SHEELIN LAD 284 (BF,C,D,F,S) Mrs T McInnes Skinner 9-10-6	T Reed

6-4 Orchestral Suite, 2-1 Rectory Garden, 3-1 General Pongo, 6-1 Sheelin Lad.

12.55 MANNY BERNSTEIN BOOKMAKERS NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,516: 3m 110yd) (16)

1	4/13	HERMES HARVEST 49 (D,F,G,S) D Williams 9-12-7	Mr S Durack (5)
2	3-22	NOW WE KNOW 12 (BF,D,G,S) M Sheppard 9-11-8	D J Kavanagh (5)
3	-254	JOHNNY-K 25 (S) D Nicholson 6-11-2	R Thornton
4	0-14	MIKE STAN 29 (BF,D,G,S) L Lungo 6-10-13	R Supple
5	/2-4	RIOT LEADER 22 T George 7-10-13	S Wynne
6	3610	THIRTY BELOW 7 (F) M Chapman 8-10-13	W Worthington
7	P-40	CORALETTE 25 S Brookshaw 7-10-12	Miss H Brookshaw (7)
8	-506	OPERETTO 15 Mrs S Nock 7-10-10	J Culloty
9	5/6-	DARU 292 R Hollinshead 8-10-6	Gary Lyons
10	2532	CYPRESS AVENUE 10 Mrs V Ward 5-10-2	W Marston
11	/004	YER 'UMBLE 17 (B) J K Cresswell 6-10-2	R Massey (3)
12	4-P6	WHAT JIM WANTS 14 (B) J J O'Neill 4-10-2	L Cooper (7)
13	4333	ESKIMO KISS 9 (S) J Mackie 4-10-0	A S Smith
14	6650	HOTSPUR STREET 15 E L James 5-10-0	Miss S Samworth (7)
15	4552	TELLAPORKY 11 R Simpson 8-10-0	A Bates (5)
16	-30U	ALZOTIC 12 (B) J Norton 4-10-0	O Pears

9-2 Johnny-K, 5-1 Mike Stan, 7-1 Riot Leader, Cypress Avenue, 8-1 Now We Know, Tellaporky, 10-1 Hermes Harvest, 12-1 others.

1.30 TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL PAST PUPILS NOVICES HURDLE (£2,558: 2m) (16)

1	5-31	BIGSOUND 56 (G) Miss V Williams 5-10-12	S Kelly (7)
2		BOLD GAIT 877F J Fanshawe 6-10-12	R Thornton
3		CHARLIE CHANG 54F B Llewellyn 4-10-12	Mr S Blackwell
4		CHEERFUL GROOM 288F D Shaw 6-10-12	P Midgley (3)
5	F	DRAMA KING 14 B Llewellyn 5-10-12	Mr J L Llewellyn
6	60-0	GINGER WATT 39 (B) R J Price 5-10-12	G Hogan (3)
7	0	GO BRITANNIA 11 F Jordan 4-10-12	D Byrne
8		IVOR FILOU 201F S Brookshaw 6-10-12	S Wynne
9		KOATHARY 57F A H Harvey 6-10-12	S McNeill
10		LEAD HIM ON 516F K Comerford 4-10-12	M Foster
11	6-0	MISTER CHIPS 71 J King 6-10-12	J Culloty
12		POLAR PROSPECT 74F P Hobbs 4-10-12	G Tormey
13	900-	SCHOLAR GREEN 384 G Yardley 5-10-12	V Slattery
14		SQUARE DEAL 173F S Bowring 6-10-12	T Dascombe
15		STONE RIDGE 165F D Sherwood 5-10-12	D J Kavanagh (5)
16	0	ROYAL CEILIDH 28 D Williams 4-10-7	Mr S Durack (5)

4-5 Bold Gait, 4-1 Bigsound, 6-1 Polar Prospect, 14-1 Ivor Filou, Stone Ridge, 16-1 Koathary, 20-1 Go Britannia, 33-1 others.

2.00 HEATHYARDS ENGINEERING NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE (£3,269: 2m 5f) (4)

1	-02P	ZAITOON 30 (F,G) D Nicholson 6-11-10	R Thornton
2	6-20	HENRY CONE 14 (BF,G) Miss V Williams 8-11-2	S Kelly (7)
3	U-14	HIGH MOOD 31 (BF,G) T George 7-10-8	S Wynne
4	3024	RAGAMUFF 17 (BF) P Hobbs 6-10-3	J Culloty

7-4 Zaitoon, 5-2 Henry Cone, 3-1 Ragamuff, 4-1 High Mood.

2.30 HOUGHTON VAUGHAN HANDICAP HURDLE (£4,770: 2m 4f 110yd) (6)

1	112-	RED BLAZER 247 (BF,D,S) Miss H Knight 6-12-0	J Culloty
2	1-11	SPENDID 34 (G,S) D Nicholson 5-11-10	R Thornton
3	2511	MR MORIARTY 77 (CD,F,G,S) S Bowring 6-11-0	T Dascombe
4	-210	GLOBE RUNNER 14 (C,D,G,S) J J O'Neill 4-10-13	L Cooper (7)
5	3/3-	AMTRAK EXPRESS 252 (D,F,G,S) Mrs J Pitman 10-10-11	D Leahy
6	311-	BEGGARS BANQUET 382 (D,F,S) P Beaumont 7-10-10	B Grattan (5)

5-2 Red Blazer, 3-1 Spendid, 9-2 Globe Runner, Beggars Banquet, 6-1 Mr Moriarty, 10-1 Amtrak Express.

3.00 DHL WORLDWIDE EXPRESS NOVICES CHASE (£3,810: 2m) (6)

1	-211	LAKE KARIBA 24 (D,G,S) P Nicholls 6-11-12	R Thornton
2	34P-	LOGICAL STEP 288 D Gandolfo 7-11-0	D Leahy
3	/0F/	POLLYKENDU 609 R Brotherton 9-11-0	G Tormey
4	P/3U	TENNESSEE KING 17 (D,S) A Foster 7-11-0	W Marston
5	24-0	THE FENCE SHRINKER 15 D McCain 6-11-0	S Wynne
6		TOPPERILLO J McConnochie 6-11-0	S McNeill

2-5 Lake Kariba, 5-1 Tennessee King, 6-1 Logical Step, 16-1 The Fence Shrinker, 33-1 Topperillo, 50-1 Pollykendu.

3.30 WEATHERBYS STARS OF TOMORROW OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (£1,488: 2m) (15)

1	4	BROGANIER 14 Mrs J Pitman 5-11-4	D Leahy
2	0	DEMI CENTURY 14 Mrs J Pitman 5-11-4	G Hogan (3)
3		MAORI WISDOM K Bailey 5-11-4	S McNeill
4		MASTER LORIEN T George 5-11-4	S Wynne
5	021-	MY WEE MAN 220P (F,S) A Streeter 6-11-4	T Eley
6	4-8	ODDA'S CHAPEL 24 M Sheppard 4-11-4	T Dascombe
7	0	ONE FINE MAN 56 T P Walshe 4-11-4	M Newton (7)
8	5	RHOSNEIGR BAY 21 Miss H Knight 4-11-4	J Culloty
9	35	SLEETING 56 J Mackie 4-11-4	E Husband (3)
10		SUMTHYNE SPECIAL L Lungo 5-11-4	R Supple
11		TACO'S REVENGE M McMillan 4-11-4	A S Smith
12		CRIME STOPPER Miss S Wilton 4-10-13	Mr S Durack (5)
13	020-	DINKY DORA 255 (BF) J K Cresswell 4-10-13	D Byrne
14	0	EMMA'S GEM 157 R Brazington 6-10-13	J Power (7)
15	0	TILL TOMORROW 12 D McCain 6-10-13	Mr G Lake (7)

7-4 Broganier, 4-1 Maori Wisdom, 6-1 Demi Century, 8-1 My Wee Man, Rhosneigr Bay, 10-1 Sumthyne Special, 14-1 Sleeting, 16-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: R Simpson, 4 winners from 4 runners, 100%; L Lungo, 4 from 7, 57.1%; O Sherwood, 20 from 69, 29.0%; D Gandolfo, 5 from 19, 26.3%; K Bailey, 27 from 121, 22.3%; S Brookshaw, 14 from 63, 22.2%.

JOCKEYS: J Culloty, 7 winners from 27 rides, 25.9%; S McNeill, 9 from 59, 15.3%; G Hogan, 3 from 20, 15.0%; A S Smith, 5 from 35, 14.3%; G Tormey, 7 from 51, 13.7%; T Dascombe, 3 from 22, 13.6%.

RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY'S TWO MEETINGS

Uttoxeter

Going: good to soft

12.40 (2m 4f 110yd hdle) 1, CLAUDIA ELECTRIC (D Gallagher, 66-1); 2, Andanito (R Dunwoody, 1-2 fav); 3, Party Animal (N Williamson, 12-1). ALSO RAN: 4 Churchtown Glen (6th), 16 Marlborough (5th), 25 Good View, 33 Not For Parrot (4th), 100 Adventure Princess, Lisleaughtin Abbey. 9 ran. 2l, 13l, 10l, 5l, 20l. Miss C Johnsey at Chepstow. Tote: £31.80; £5.10, £1.30, £1.10. DF: £30.20. Trio £37.90. CSF: £91.65.

1.10 (3m ch) 1, HOODED HAWK (M A Fitzgerald, 7-1); 2, Workingforpeanuts (V Slattery, 12-1); 3, Calleva Star (A Thornton, 10-1); 4, Oliver's Secret (A P McCoy, 3-1 fav). ALSO RAN: 6 Toskano, 8 Cool Runner (5th), 10 Lugs Brannigan, 14 Lovable Outlaw, 16 Owens Quest, 20 Granham Pride (f), Jalcanto, 25 Baroncelli (6th), Spring To Glory, 33 Polo Pony, 50 Chartafrivola, Hit The Fan. 16 ran. 4l, 3l, 14l, 6l, 4l. N Henderson at Lambourn. Tote: £5.10; £1.10, £2.90, £1.90, £1.30. DF: £72.80. CSF: £75.22. Tricast: £779.41. Trio: £532.20 (part won; pool of £104.96 carried forward to 12.55 Uttoxeter today).

1.40 (2m hdle) 1, NIPPER REED (A P McCoy, 11-2); 2, Raffles Rooster (P Carberry, 13-8 fav); 3, Winn's Pride (S Wynne, 14-1). ALSO RAN: 9-2 Centaur Express (6th), Diego (4th), 11-2 Bures (5th). 6 ran. 5l, ¾l, 29l, 18l, 9l. R Simpson at Foxhill. Tote: £5.20; £1.70, £1.50. DF: £5.00. CSF: £13.92.

2.10 (2m ch) 1, RANDOM ASSAULT (Mr O McPhail, 11-2); 2, Barnageera Boy (T Jenks, 8-11 fav); 3, Mouse Bird (R Dunwoody, 2-1). ALSO RAN. 33 Circulation (4th). 4 ran. NR: Sublime Fellow. 5l, hd, dist. D Nicholson at Temple Guiting. Tote: £5.80. DF: £3.70. CSF: £9.71.

2.40 (2m hdle) 1, SILENT VALLEY (A Thornton, 9-4 fav); 2, After Hours (J Magee, 13-2); 3, Cadbury Castle (X Aizpuru, 9-2). ALSO RAN: 5 My Hero, 8 Patrick, 9 Gunners Glory (4th), 12 My Betsy (6th), 16 Sun Fairy, 25 Hopperetta, 33 Five Live (5th), Zanabay. 11 ran. 3l, 6l, dist, 13l, 12l. Miss L Siddell at Tadcaster. Tote: £3.90; £1.30, £1.90, £1.70. DF: £23.30. Trio: £16.80. CSF: £16.47.

3.10 (2m 4f ch) 1, LISTEN TIMMY (S Wynne, 8-13 fav); 2, Absolutly Equiname (B Powell, 6-1); 3, In The Blood (R Dunwoody, 11-2). ALSO RAN: 7 Donnington (4th), 25 Organ Recital (f), 33 Seven Potato More (5th), 66 Sheet Lightning, Sideliner. 8 ran. NR: Dande Dove. 8l, 1¼l, dist, 15l. S Brookshaw at Uffington. Tote: £1.60; £1.30, £2.20, £1.10. DF: £5.00. Trio. £2.70. CSF: £4.42.

3.40 (2m 4f 110yd hdle) 1, LORD OF THE RIVER (J A McCarthy, 6-5); 2, Arctic Camper (R Johnson, 5-6 fav); 3, Babbling Brook (R Dunwoody, 20-1). ALSO RAN: 50-1 King Paddy (4th), 66 A Verse To Order (5th), 100 Lord Sabre, 200 Sharp Alice. 7 ran. NR: Sweet Lord. 2l, dist, 2½l, 3½l. O Sherwood at Upper Lambourn. Tote: £2.10; £1.20, £1.10. DF: £1.10. CSF: £2.17.

Jackpot: not won (pool of £11,931.09 carried forward to Ascot today).

Placepot: £231.20.

Quadpot: £39.90.

Lingfield Park

Going: standard

12.15 (1m 4f) 1, LAUREL SEEKER (Mrs A Perrett, 11-4 fav); 2, Aquavita (Mrs S Moore, 5-1); 3, Wildmoor (Mr G Elliott, 3-1). ALSO RAN: 6 Areish (4th), 10 Paptia, Shahik, 14 Flow Back (5th), 16 Noble Hero (6th), 33 Adilov, Dosses Dan, Ler Cru, Profession. 12 ran. ½l, 2½l, 5l, 12l, ¾l. Mrs A Perrett at Pulborough. Tote: £3.70. £1.50, £2.10, £1.60. DF: £9.20. Trio: £5.20. CSF: £15.78.

12.45 (1m 2f) 1, LEGAL ISSUE (T Sprake, 5-1); 2, Jubilee Scholar (A Clark, 9-2 fav); 3, Haydn James (M Fenton, 5-1). ALSO RAN: 6 Guesstimation (4th), 7 Little Miss Ribot (5th), 15-2 Multi Franchise, 9 Gold Clipper, 16 Sejaal, 20 Na Huibheachu, Our Shadee, 25 Mislemani, 33 Coastguards Hero, Ki Chi Saga, Memory's Music (6th). 14 ran. Hd, 4l, 3½l, 4l, 2½l. W Haigh at Malton. Tote: £5.80; £1.90, £3.90, £3.20. DF: £23.40. Trio: £20.20. CSF: £24.68. Tricast: £111.21.

1.20 (1m 2f) 1, MUHANDIS (Candy Morris, 20-1); 2, Protaras Bay (N Adams, 7-1); 3t, Billaddie (R Cochrane, 10-1); 3t, Without Friends (A Whelan, 5-1). ALSO RAN: 15-8 fav Dancing Destiny (6th), 7 Captain's Day, 10 Silver Harrow, 14 Ed's Folly (5th), 16 Inkwell; 20 Magazine Gap, Sharazamataz, 25 Fort Knox, 33 Ruby Estate, 50 Miss Imp. 14 ran. Hd, ¾l, dd-ht, 2l, 8l. G L Moore at Brighton. Tote: £25.80; £7.00, £4.30, Billaddie £1.30, Without Friends £0.90. DF: £65.50. CSF: £140.65. Tricast: Billaddie £697.11; Muhandis, Protaras Bay, Without Friends £381.74.

1.50 (5f) 1, JUST ANOTHER TIME (P Roberts, 2-1 fav); 2, Private Seal (A Clark, 5-2); 3, Miss Bananas (N Carlisle, 10-1). ALSO RAN: 9-2 Risky Whisky (5th), Super Gelf (6th), 12 Dande Times (4th). 6 ran. 1½l, ¾l, 1¼l, hd, 3l. J Berry at Cockerham. Tote: £3.20; £2.10, £2.10. DF: £4.50. CSF: £6.88.

2.20 (6f) 1, APOLLO RED (Candy Morris, 11-1); 2, Palacegate Touch (P Bradley, 11-2); 3, Ramsey Hope (R Cochrane, 14-1). ALSO RAN: 11-8 fav Chipstead Bay, 5 Robo Magic, 9 Scissor Ridge (4th), 11 Half Tone (6th), 14 That Man Again (5th), 20 Johnny Staccato, Plein Gaz. 10 ran. 1l, ¾l, 1¾l, ½l, 1l. G L Moore at Brighton. Tote: £11.10; £3.10, £2.00, £4.90. DF: £11.60. Trio: £172.40. CSF: £69.04. Tricast: £812.25.

2.50 (1m) 1, HANUMAN HIGHWAY (D Biggs, 7-1); 2, Flight (W Ryan, 5-1); 3, Pleasuredancer (Emma O'Gorman, 13-8 fav). ALSO RAN: 6 Scotland Bay (4th), 13-2 Free, 8 Technician (5th), 9 Caradoc, 33 Merch Rhyd-Y-Grug, Red Risk (6th), Sammy's Shuffle. 10 ran. NR: First Idea. 3l, 1¾l, 12l, 6l, 3l. M Tompkins at Newmarket. Tote: £6.70; £2.30, £1.80, £1.10. DF: £19.80. Trio: £16.70. CSF: £40.43

3.20 (7f) 1, COSSACK COUNT (P Doe, 9-1); 2, Churchill's Shadow (W Ryan, 11-2); 3, Ivor's Deed (A Whelan, 13-2); 4, Matoaka (R Perham, 8-1). ALSO RAN: 5 fav Itsinthepost, 9 Lift Boy, Mogin (6th), 10 La Petite Fusee, Sharp Imp, 12 Sizzling (5th), 16 Ivory's Grab Hire, 20 Aegean Sound, Regal Splendour, 25 Royal Carlton, 33 Chief's Lady, 50 Little Pilgrim. 16 ran. 6l, hd, ½l, 1¾l, 1l. S Dow at Epsom. Tote: £13.70; £4.70, £1.70, £1.50, £3.10. DF: £74.90. Trio: £331.20. CSF: £55.77. Tricast: £345.30

Placepot: £38.30. Quadpot: £19.30.

GUIDE TO THE WEEKEND FIXTURES

TODAY

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE: Premier division: Backwell v Paulton R, Bridgwater v Keynsham; Brislington v Taunton; Bristol Manor Farm v Barnstaple; Calne v Bridport; Chard v Chippenham; Elmore v Melksham; Mangotsfield Utd v Bideford; *Odd Down v Torrington; Westbury v* Tiverton. Les Phillips Cup: First round: Larkhall Ath v Ilfracombe.

MINERVA SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division south: Amersham v Beaconsfield; Brook House v Barkingside; Hanwell v Brimsdown; Ruislip Manor v Haringey Boro; St Margaretsbury v Harefield; Woodford v Hillingdon Boro. Premier division north: Langford v Bedford; Letchworth v Buckingham Athletic; London Colney v Brache Sparta; Milton Keynes v Hoddesdon; Potters Bar v Harpenden; Toddington v Royston; Welwyn Garden v Biggleswade. O'Brien Butchers Trophy: Fourth round: Waltham Abbey v Holmer Green; Cockfosters v Arlesey Town.

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Cambridge Utd v Norwich (11.0); Gillingham v Crystal Palace (11.0); Ipswich v Arsenal (11.0); Leyton Orient v Southend (11.0); Millwall v Watford (11.0); Queens Park Rangers v Portsmouth (10.45); Tottenham v West Ham (11.0). Second division: Brentford v Swindon (11.0); Brighton v Barnet (11.0); Bristol City v Oxford Utd (11.0); Colchester v Tottenham (11.0); Reading v Bristol Rovers (11.0); Southampton v Wimbledon (11.0); Wycombe v Luton (11.0).

ENDSLEIGH INSURANCE MIDLAND COMBINATION: Premier division: Boldmere Swifts v Highgate; Coleshill v Handrahan Timbers; David Lloyd AFC v Meir KA; Dudley Sports v Alvechurch; GPT (Coventry) v Worcestero; Kenilworth v Continental Star; Kings Heath v Cheslyn Hay; Studley BKL v Massey Ferguson; Wellesbourne v Coventry Sphinx. Presidents Cup: Colletts Green v Feckenham

OLD BOYS LEAGUE: Premier division: Old Hamptonians v Glyn OB; Latymer OB v Enfield OG; Old Suttonians v Old Meadonians. Senior first division: Old Buckwellians v Clapham OX, Old Salvatorians v Chertsey OS; Old Reigatians v Phoenix OB; Old Wilsonians v *Old Manorians; Old Isleworthians v Old* Kingsburians.

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Atherton LR v Mossley; Blackpool Rovers v Darwen; Chadderton v St Helens; Clitheroe v Nantwich Town, Glossop North End v Burscough, Haslingden v Atherton Collieries; Kidsgrove v Ramsbottom, Prescot Cables *v Holker Old Boys; Rossendale v Warrington;* Salford v Newcastle Town; Vauxhall GM v Maine Road

SOUTHERN AMATEUR LEAGUE: Lansbury v Polytechnic, Civil Service v Old Actonians; Carshalton v Norsemen, Crouch End Vampires v South Bank; Lloyds Bank v East Barnet OG; Old Parmiterians v West Wickham; Barclays Bank v Old Lyonian, Old Salesians v Old Parkonians; Old Owens v NatWest Bank; Old Esthameians v Winchmore Hill, Cuaco v Midland Bank, Southgate Olympic v Alleyn OB, Bank of England v Kew Association; Ibis v Brentham. Old Westminster Citizens v Old Stationers. Merton v Broomfield.

BANKS'S BREWERY LEAGUE: Premier division: Bustleholme v Kington Town; *Cradley Town v Darlaston; Ettingshall v* Bloxwich S; Gornal A v Malvern T; Lye Town v Westfields; Stourport S v Stafford T; Walsall Wood v Brierley Hill T; Wolverhampton C v Tividale. Wolverhampton v Ludlow T

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Clacton v Ely; Felixstowe Port and v Diss; Great Yarmouth v Sudbury; Harwich and Parkeston v Wroxham; Histon v Gorleston. Lowestoft v Halstead; Stowmarket v Fakenham. Sudbury v Soham, Tiptree v Newmarket. Warboys v Woodbridge Town.

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: AFC Newbury v Lymington, Andover v Wimborne; Bournemouth v Cowes Sports, Brockenhurst v East Cowes, Downton v Eastleigh; Gosport v Aerostructures; Romsey v Portsmouth, Thatcham Town v Bemerton Heath, Whitchurch v BAT.

UHLSPORT UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Cogenhoe v Buckingham; Ford Sports v Desborough, Holbeach v Yaxley; Mirrlees Blackstone v Wellingborough; Potton v Long Buckby; St Neots v Stamford; Spalding v Northampton Spencer; Stotfold v Bourne, Wootton v *Boston.*

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Hassocks v Whitehawk; Horsham YMCA v Chichester; Langney Sports v Redhill; Mile Oak v Wick, Pagham v Burgess Hill; Portfield v Hailsham; Saltdean v Eastbourne Town, Selsey v Ringmer; Shoreham v Peacehaven and Telscombe. John O'Hara Cup: Second round: East Grinstead v Arundel. Third *round: Littlehampton v Shinewater Assoc.*

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Beckenham v Herne Bay; Canterbury v Sheppey; Chatham v Crockenhill; Corinthian v Thamesmead. Deal v Faversham, Erith v Whitstable Town, Hythe v VCD, Lordswood v Greenwich; Ramsgate v Swanley Furness; Slade Green v Folkestone Invicta; Tunbridge Wells v Cray

INTERLINK EXPRESS ALLIANCE: Barwell v Rocester; Bloxwich Town v Sandwell; Bridgnorth v Knypersley V, Kings Norton v Rushall O; Oldbury v Stapenhill; Pelsall V v Stratford T, Pershore T v Boldmere St M, Shifnal T v Chasetown; Wednesfield v Halesowen H; W Mid Police v Willenhall.

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: *Premier division: Curzon Ashton v Maltby* MW; Denaby v Selby; Eccleshill v Thackley; Glasshoughton Welfare v Arnold, Hallam v Sheffield; Hatfield Main v Brigg Town; Hucknall Town v Pontefract Cols; Liversedge v Ossett Albion, North Ferriby v Armthorpe Welfare; Ossett Town v Pickering.

ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE: Premier division: *Burnham Ramblers v Eton Manor.*

FA PREMIER YOUTH LEAGUE: Coventry v Queens Park Rangers (11.30)

RUGBY LEAGUE

Kick-off 2.0 unless stated

SILK CUT CHALLENGE CUP: Second round: BRK v Leigh East; Charleston v *Saddleworth, Dewsbury Moor v Dutton,* Dudley Hill v Skirlaugh; Eastmoor v Leeds University; Egremont v Hull Dockers, Ellenborough v Queensbury; Folly Lane v Askam; Haydock v Waterhead, Howorth v Clayton; Hunslet Warriors v Millom Mayfield v Featherstone Lions; Moldgreen v Siddal; Myton Warriors v Norland; Ovenden v Wigan St Patrick's; Queen's v Beverley; Stanningley v Farnworth ROB; Walney Central v Leigh Miners; Wigan Rose Bridge v West Hull; Woolston v Oldham St Anne's, Worth Village v Thornhill.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE: First division: Blackbrook v East Leeds (2.30); Milford v Barrow Island; Shaw Cross v Wigan St Jude's. Second *division: Eccles v Dodworth (2.30), York* Acorn v New Earswick.

HOCKEY

ESL SOUTH LEAGUE: Kent/Sussex: Blackheath v Marden Russets; Worthing v Brighton.

WOMEN'S REGIONAL LEAGUES: East: Ashford v Harleston; Cambridge City v Bury St Edmunds, Ipswich v Dereham; Sevenoaks v Welwyn Garden City

EAST INDOOR SUPER LEAGUE (at Aldenham School, 12.30).

MIDLANDS INDOOR CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP (at Perdiswell Leisure Centre, Worcester, 9.30am, and at Wyre Forest Glades Arena, Kidderminster, 9.30am).

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Leicester Riders v Watford Royals (7.30); Worthing Bears v Birmingham Bullets (8.0)

BOXING: Commonwealth cruiserweight championship: D Corbett (Belfast, holder) v R Norton (Stourbridge) (at Maysfield Leisure Centre, Belfast).

EQUESTRIANISM: Olympia international showjumping championships

ICE HOCKEY: Superleague: Newcastle Cobras v Bracknell Bees (6.30). Express Cup: Sheffield Steelers v Manchester Storm (7.0).

LACROSSE: Shepherds Friendly Society League: Premier division: Stockport v Cheadle. Hulmeans v Heaton Mersey; Cheadle Hulme v Poynton, Timperley v Boardman and Eccles; Old Waconians v Sheffield University.

TOMORROW

RUGBY LEAGUE

SILK CUT CHALLENGE CUP: Second round: Redhill v Lock Lane (12.30).

OTHER MATCH: Bramley v Hunslet (12.0)

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Sheffield Sharks v Chester Jets (6.0); Birmingham Bullets v Manchester Giants (6.30), London Towers v Worthing Bears (5.0)

EQUESTRIANISM: Olympia international showjumping championships

HOCKEY: East Indoor Super League (at Aldenham School, 9.30). Midlands Indoor Club Championship (at Wyre Forest Glades Arena, 10.0am).

ICE HOCKEY: Superleague: Ayr Scottish Eagles v Bracknell Bees (6.30); Newcastle Cobras v Sheffield Steelers (6.30); Cardiff Devils v Manchester Storm (6.0).

THE TIMES SPORTS SERVICE

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Call 0839 555 512

Calls cost 50p per minute

Pow

Enter the league and win £10,000

Do you have the skill to choose a team and win the FA Cup league?

A £10,000 prize is up for grabs for the winner of the brand-new FA Cup league, *a league within the ITF.*

Entrants to ITF will automatically score points in the *FA Cup league when the* players in their team compete in the FA/Tennents Cup *rounds. From* January 3, English Premiership players will begin the knockout and *January 24* sees the start of the Tennents Cup round involving Scottish premier division teams.

This is your chance to choose a team specifically for the FA Cup league. All players start scoring when the cup rounds involving English and Scottish premier divisions begin. *All* teams will be allocated transfers to use at their own discretion but remember, the *sooner you enter* the more transfers your team will be allocated.

Any team in the ITF before 12 noon last Saturday received 20 extra transfers in addition to their present allocation. From now on, all *new* teams will receive 20 transfers for the duration of the season. Postal entries must be received by Tuesday December 30 and telephone entries by 10am on Saturday January 3 in order to score points from the beginning of the FA Cup league competition. **Entrants must be 18 years or over.**

By competing in the FA Cup league, your players will automatically score points for matches played in the English and Scottish premier divisions during the 1997-98 football season as well and, if appropriate, in the mini leagues — *students'* or women's.

By scoring points in the ITF, your team *could* win *the* monthly prizes of £1,000, a signed Mitre football, a Mitre *sports bag and a pair of tickets* to a premier league match by scoring the most points in any *one month.* The *mini* league (student's and women's) also carry monthly prizes.

PREMIERSHIP CLUBS IN FA CUP DRAW

Portsmouth v Aston Villa
Arsenal v Port Vale
Leicester City v Northampton Town
Leeds United v Oxford United
Everton v Newcastle United
Liverpool v Coventry City
West Ham United v Emley
Derby County v Southampton
Tottenham Hotspur v Fulham
Crystal Palace v Scunthorpe United
Watford v Sheffield Wednesday
Chelsea v Manchester United
Wimbledon v Wrexham
Blackburn Rovers v Wigan Athletic
Barnsley v Bolton Wanderers
Ties to be played on January 3 and 4

ITF Terms and conditions: 1. You must enter through the media channel you wish to play by. 2. Entries must comply with the specifications of the team as listed right. 3. There is no limit to the number of entries a person or household may make. 4. No responsibility is accepted for late or lost entries due to circumstances beyond our control. Indecipherable, inaudible or incomplete entries are null and void with no refund. The computer's record of the entry will be considered to be the entry. 5. The ITF committee's decision is final regarding all aspects of ITF. 6. Telephone entries and transfers are made by Touch-tone (DTMF) telephones only (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone). 7. Promotional and explanatory copy relating to The Times/The Sunday Times ITF in association with LineOne, the Internet and Sky Sports Interactive. 8. *Players values will be reassessed at the end of January and March.* 9. *Official updated players/managers lists* will be published in *The Times.* 10. The top prize goes to the entrant whose team scores the most points in the FA Cup league. In the event of there being more than one winner, a tiebreak will operate. These are no monthly prizes. 11. The top prize for the main ITF game goes to the entrant whose team scores the most points throughout the 1997-98 football season. There are also second and third place prizes. In the event of there being more than one winner in any of these positions, a tie-break will operate. 12. The manager of the month prize will go to the entrant whose team scores the most points in any one month. This applies to the main ITF game, the mini leagues and the Internet league. In the event of there being more than one league winner, a winner will be chosen at random. 13. No team will be eligible to win a prize unless they have abided by the competition rules. 14. Scores will count for the English and Scottish premier division and FA Cup/Tennents Cup (involving English and Scottish premier division teams) matches for the 1997-98 season. 15. Calls for entries *should take approximately eight minutes. Calls cost 50p per minute. Calls from pay phones cost approximately* double. 16. The competition is not open to employees of News International, BSkyB, their relatives, agents or agents' relatives. 17. If a player or manager moves teams during the season, it may affect the composition of your team. You may adjust your team by using the transfer system to avoid missing out on points. 18. Full explanations on how your players will score points, how to transfer and how to check your score and position in the league are printed every week in The Times. 19. You may also enter a new team by LineOne, the Internet (call 0800 111 210 for details) and by Sky Sports Interactive (Sky Text page 118).

THE ITF FA CUP LEAGUE

£10,000 to the winner

HOW TO PLAY

Study the Cup draw (the Scottish draw will be made in January) and the list of players. Select your team as follows:
You have £35 million to spend on a team of 11 players and a manager.
You must pick 1 goalkeeper, 2 full backs, 2 central defenders, 4 midfielders, 2 strikers and a manager.
You must not pick more than two individuals (two players or one player and a manager) from the same club.
Your team must be made up of 12 individuals at any one time but you may transfer your players in and out of your team as you wish, according to your *transfer allocation.*
You may enter as many teams as you wish.

HOW TO ENTER BY POST

Once you have selected your team, simply complete the entry form and send it with a cheque or postal order for £2 payable to Times Newspapers to the address on the application form. Entries from outside the UK and Republic of Ireland are £10 sterling and may only be made by post.

HOW TO ENTER BY TELEPHONE

0891 405 011
(Republic of Ireland +44 990 100 308)

Once you have chosen your team, call the entry hotline using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone) and follow the step-by-step instructions. You must tap in (not speak) the full set of selections (using the five-digit player codes) for each of your 11 chosen players and your manager. You will be asked whether you wish to [illegible] (women's or students') [illegible] as directed on the [illegible] the name of your team [illegible]), your name, address [illegible] daytime telephone number. Finally [illegible] personal identification [illegible] at the end of the call. You must keep a note of this number as you will need your PIN for making transfers and checking your team [illegible]. A new team will score points on future games [illegible] and mini leagues. Calls last about eight [illegible] 50p per minute [illegible] made from [illegible]

To enter, call
0891 405 011
(Republic of Ireland +44 990 100 308)

sports interactive

HOW TO ENTER YOUR TEAM

THIS SECTION TO BE COMPLETED BY ALL ENTRANTS

TEAM NAME ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐ *(Up to 16 characters)*
Goalkeeper ☐☐☐☐☐ ____________
Full back ☐☐☐☐☐ ____________
Full back ☐☐☐☐☐ ____________
Central defender ☐☐☐☐☐ ____________
Central defender ☐☐☐☐☐ ____________
Midfielder ☐☐☐☐☐ ____________
Midfielder ☐☐☐☐☐ ____________
Midfielder ☐☐☐☐☐ ____________
Midfielder ☐☐☐☐☐ ____________
Striker ☐☐☐☐☐ ____________
Striker ☐☐☐☐☐ ____________
Manager ☐☐☐☐☐ ____________

First Name ____________
Surname ____________
Address ____________
____
Postcode ____________ Daytime Tel ____________
Cheque / PO No. ____________

This year ITF incorporates separate mini leagues. Please tick the correct league(s) for your entry.
☐ Women's League ☐ Student League

Entrants must be 18 or over to play in the ITF league, the Women's league and the Students' league.

Which age group are you? (TICK BOX) 18-24 ☐ 25-34 ☐ 35-44 ☐ 45-54 ☐ 55-64 ☐ 65+ ☐

How often do you read The Sunday Times? Less than once a month ☐ 1-2 times a month ☐ 3-4 times a month ☐

How often do you read The Times? *Less than once a week* ☐ *1-3 times a week* ☐ *4-6 times a week* ☐

Do you have a PC at home? Yes ☐ No ☐

If you do not wish to receive other offers from Times Newspapers, please tick box ☐

Send your entry with £2 entry fee (entrants outside the UK or Rep of Ireland £10 sterling) to: The Times Interactive Team Football, Abacus House, Dudley Street, Luton, Bedfordshire LU1 1ZZ.

GOALKEEPERS

Code	Name	Team	Price £m
10101	J Leighton	Aberdeen	2.00
10201	D Seaman	Arsenal	5.00
10301	M Bosnich	Aston Villa	3.00
10401	D Watson	Barnsley	1.00
10501	T Flowers	Blackburn Rovers	3.50
10601	K Branagan	Bolton Wanderers	1.50
10701	S Kerr	Celtic	4.00
10702	J Gould	Celtic	3.50
10801	E De Goey	Chelsea	3.00
10901	S Ogrizovic	Coventry City	1.50
11001	C Nash	Crystal Palace	0.25
11002	K Miller	Crystal Palace	2.00
11101	M Poom	Derby County	1.50
11201	*S Dykstra*	*Dundee United*	*2.00*
11301	I Westwater	Dunfermline	1.00
11401	N Southall	Everton	2.00
11501	G Rousset	Hearts	3.50
11601	C Reid	Hibernian	1.50
11602	O Gottskalksson	Hibernian	1.50
11701	D Lekovic	Kilmarnock	1.00
11801	N Martyn	Leeds United	3.50
11901	K Keller	Leicester City	3.00
12001	*D James*	*Liverpool*	*3.50*
12101	P Schmeichel	Manchester United	5.00
12201	S Howie	Motherwell	1.00
12301	S Given	Newcastle United	3.00
12401	A Goram	Rangers	5.00
12501	*K Pressman*	*Sheffield Wednesday*	*2.00*
12702	P Jones	Southampton	1.00
12601	A Main	St Johnstone	0.50
12801	I Walker	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50
12901	L Miklosko	West Ham United	2.00
13001	N Sullivan	Wimbledon	2.50

FULL BACKS

Code	Name	Team	Price £m
20201	L Dixon	Arsenal	3.00
20202	N Winterburn	Arsenal	3.00
20203	E Petit	Arsenal	3.00
20301	S Staunton	Aston Villa	2.50
20302	A Wright	Aston Villa	2.50
20303	*S Grayson*	*Aston Villa*	*2.00*
20304	F Nelson	Aston Villa	2.00
20401	N Eaden	Barnsley	0.50
20402	N Thompson	Barnsley	0.50
20403	D Barnard	Barnsley	1.00
20502	*J Kenna*	*Blackburn Rovers*	*3.00*
20503	P Valery	Blackburn Rovers	2.50
20601	N Cox	Bolton Wanderers	2.00
21901	M Whitlow	Bolton Wanderers	1.50
20602	R Elliott	Bolton Wanderers	2.00
20603	J Phillips	Bolton Wanderers	1.00
20701	T Boyd	Celtic	3.50
20702	T McKinlay	Celtic	3.50
20703	J McNamara	Celtic	3.00
20501	G Le Saux	Chelsea	4.00
20801	D Petrescu	Chelsea	4.00
20802	C Babayaro	Chelsea	2.00
20803	F Sinclair	Chelsea	2.00
20901	D Burrows	Coventry City	1.00
20903	M Hall	Coventry City	1.00
20904	R Nilsson	Coventry City	1.00
21001	D Gordon	Crystal Palace	1.50
21002	M Edworthy	Crystal Palace	1.50
21004	*J Smith*	*Crystal Palace*	*1.50*
21101	C Powell	Derby County	1.50
21102	D Yates	Derby County	1.00
21103	G Rowett	Derby County	1.50
21401	A Hinchcliffe	Everton	2.50
21402	E Barrett	Everton	1.50
21403	T Phelan	Everton	1.50
21404	M Ward	Everton	1.50
21501	G Locke	Hearts	1.50
21701	*D Kerr*	*Kilmarnock*	*1.00*
21801	G Kelly	Leeds United	2.50
21802	D Robertson	Leeds United	2.50
21902	S Guppy	Leicester City	2.50
22001	*S Bjornebye*	Liverpool	3.00
22002	J McAteer	Liverpool	3.00
22003	R Jones	Liverpool	3.00
22101	D Irwin	Manchester United	4.00
22102	G Neville	Manchester United	3.50
22103	*P Neville*	*Manchester United*	*3.50*
22301	S Watson	Newcastle United	3.00
22302	W Barton	Newcastle United	2.00
22303	J Beresford	Newcastle United	2.00
22304	*S Pearce*	*Newcastle United*	*3.00*
22401	A Cleland	Rangers	3.00
22402	S Stensaas	Rangers	3.00
22501	P Blondeau	Sheffield Wednesday	2.00
22502	I Nolan	Sheffield Wednesday	2.00
22701	J Dodd	Southampton	1.50
22702	F Benali	Southampton	0.75
22703	S Charlton	Southampton	0.75
22801	C Wilson	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00
22802	*J Edinburgh*	*Tottenham Hotspur*	*2.00*
22803	S Carr	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00
22901	J Dicks	West Ham United	3.00
22902	A Impey	West Ham United	1.50
22903	T Breacker	West Ham United	2.00
23001	B Thatcher	Wimbledon	2.00
23002	K Cunningham	Wimbledon	2.00
23003	A Kimble	Wimbledon	2.00

CENTRAL DEFENDERS

Code	Name	Team	Price £m
30101	B O'Neil	Aberdeen	2.00
30201	T Adams	Arsenal	3.00
30202	M Keown	Arsenal	3.00
30203	G Grimandi	Arsenal	2.00
30204	*S Bould*	*Arsenal*	*3.00*
30301	G Southgate	Aston Villa	3.00
30302	U Ehiogu	Aston Villa	3.00
30401	A De Zeeuw	Barnsley	1.00
30402	A Moses	Barnsley	0.50
30403	*M Appleby*	*Barnsley*	*0.50*
30502	C Hendry	Blackburn Rovers	3.00
30504	S Henchoz	Blackburn Rovers	2.50
30505	T Pedersen	Blackburn Rovers	2.00
30601	G Taggart	Bolton Wanderers	1.50
30602	G Bergsson	Bolton Wanderers	1.00
30603	C Fairclough	Bolton Wanderers	1.00
30604	M Fish	Bolton Wanderers	1.50
30701	E Annoni	Celtic	1.50
30702	M MacKay	Celtic	3.00
30703	A Stubbs	Celtic	3.00
30704	M Rieper	Celtic	3.00
30801	F Leboeuf	Chelsea	3.00
30802	M Duberry	Chelsea	3.00
30803	S Clarke	Chelsea	2.50
30804	B Lambourde	Chelsea	2.50
30901	L Daish	Coventry City	1.50
30902	R Shaw	Coventry City	1.50
30903	P Williams	Coventry City	1.50
31001	*A Roberts*	*Crystal Palace*	*1.50*
31002	A Linighan	Crystal Palace	0.75
31003	D Tuttle	Crystal Palace	0.75
31004	H Hreidarsson	Crystal Palace	1.00
31101	I Stimac	Derby County	2.50
31102	*J Laursen*	*Derby County*	*1.50*
31201	S Pressley	Dundee United	2.00
31301	G Shields	Dunfermline	1.50
31401	S Bilic	Everton	2.50
31402	D Watson	Everton	2.00
31404	C Tiler	*Everton*	1.50
31501	D Weir	Hearts	2.00
31601	J Hughes	Hibernian	2.00
31801	D Wetherall	Leeds United	2.50
31802	G Halle	Leeds United	2.00
31803	*R Molenaar*	Leeds United	2.00
31804	*L Radebe*	Leeds United	2.00
31901	M Elliott	Leicester City	3.50
31902	P Kaamark	Leicester City	2.00
31903	S Walsh	Leicester City	2.50
31904	S Prior	Leicester City	2.00
32001	M Wright	Liverpool	3.00
32002	D Matteo	Liverpool	3.00
32003	B Kvarme	Liverpool	3.00
30501	H Berg	Manchester United	3.50
32101	D May	Manchester United	3.50
32102	G Pallister	Manchester United	3.50
32301	P Albert	Newcastle United	2.50
32302	D Peacock	Newcastle United	3.00
32303	S Howey	Newcastle United	2.00
32304	A Pistone	Newcastle United	3.00
32401	S Porrini	Rangers	3.50
32402	J Bjorklund	Rangers	3.50
32403	L Amoruso	Rangers	3.50
32404	R Gough	Rangers	4.00
32501	D Walker	Sheffield Wednesday	2.00
32502	J Newsome	Sheffield Wednesday	2.00
32503	P Atherton	Sheffield Wednesday	2.00
32701	R Dryden	Southampton	1.00
32702	*C Lundekvam*	*Southampton*	*1.00*
32704	K Monkou	Southampton	1.00
32601	S McCluskey	St Johnstone	0.50
32801	S Campbell	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50
32802	J Scales	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50
32803	R Vega	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00
32804	C Calderwood	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00
32901	R Ferdinand	West Ham United	2.50
32902	R Hall	West Ham United	2.00
31403	D Unsworth	*West Ham United*	2.00
32903	S Potts	West Ham United	1.50
32904	I Pearce	West Ham United	2.00
33001	C Perry	Wimbledon	2.50
33002	D Blackwell	Wimbledon	2.50

MIDFIELD PLAYERS

Code	Name	Team	Price £m
40101	E Jess	Aberdeen	2.00
40102	P Bernard	Aberdeen	2.00
40201	M Overmars	Arsenal	5.50
40202	P Vieira	Arsenal	3.50
40203	S Hughes	Arsenal	2.00
40204	R Parlour	Arsenal	2.50
40205	D Platt	Arsenal	1.50
40301	M Draper	Aston Villa	3.00
40302	I Taylor	Aston Villa	2.50
40401	N Redfearn	Barnsley	3.00
40402	*E Tinkler*	*Barnsley*	*2.00*
40403	D Sheridan	Barnsley	1.00
40404	M Bullock	Barnsley	0.50
40501	J Wilcox	Blackburn Rovers	3.00
40502	B McKinlay	Blackburn Rovers	3.00
40503	T Sherwood	Blackburn Rovers	3.00
40504	G Flitcroft	Blackburn Rovers	3.00
40601	A Thompson	Bolton Wanderers	2.50
40602	S Sellars	Bolton Wanderers	2.00
40603	P Frandsen	Bolton Wanderers	2.00
40604	M Johansen	Bolton Wanderers	2.00
40605	J Pollock	Bolton Wanderers	2.00
40701	A Thom	Celtic	4.50
40702	P O'Donnell	Celtic	3.00
42503	R Blinker	Celtic	3.00
40704	*C Burley*	*Celtic*	*3.00*
40705	P Lambert	Celtic	3.00
40801	D Wise	Chelsea	3.50
40802	R Di Matteo	Chelsea	4.00
40803	E Newton	Chelsea	1.50
40804	G Poyet	Chelsea	3.00
40901	G McAllister	Coventry City	2.50
40902	T Soltvedt	Coventry City	1.50
40903	J Salako	Coventry City	1.50
40904	P Telfer	*Coventry City*	1.50
41002	S Rodger	Crystal Palace	1.00
41003	D Pitcher	Crystal Palace	0.25
41004	P Warhurst	Crystal Palace	1.50
41005	A Lombardo	Crystal Palace	3.00
41101	A Asanovic	*Derby County*	*2.50*
41102	S Eranio	Derby County	3.50
41103	D Powell	Derby County	1.50
41104	C Dailly	Derby County	1.50
41105	R Van Der Laan	Derby County	1.00
41106	J Hunt	Derby County	1.00
41201	R Winters	Dundee United	3.50
41301	A Smith	Dunfermline	3.50
41401	G Speed	Everton	3.50
41402	*J Parkinson*	Everton	*1.50*
41403	G Farrelly	Everton	1.50
41404	D Williamson	Everton	2.00
41405	J Oster	Everton	2.50
41501	N McCann	Hearts	3.50
41601	*C Jackson*	*Hibernian*	2.00
41602	B Lavety	Hibernian	2.00
41701	J McIntyre	Kilmarnock	2.00
41001	D Hopkin	Leeds United	3.50
41801	L Bowyer	Leeds United	3.00
41802	A Haaland	Leeds United	2.00
41803	L Sharpe	Leeds United	2.50
41804	B Ribeiro	Leeds United	2.50
41901	G Parker	Leicester City	2.00
41902	N Lennon	Leicester City	2.00
41903	M Izzet	Leicester City	2.00
41904	S Taylor	Leicester City	1.50
42001	S McManaman	Liverpool	6.00
42002	O Leonhardsen	Liverpool	3.00
42003	*M Thomas*	*Liverpool*	*3.00*
42004	J Redknapp	Liverpool	3.00
42006	P Ince	Liverpool	4.00
42101	D Beckham	Manchester United	8.00
42102	R Giggs	Manchester United	7.00
42103	R Keane	Manchester United	6.00
42104	N Butt	Manchester United	4.00
42105	A Cole	Manchester United	7.00
42201	B Davies	Motherwell	2.00
42301	R Lee	Newcastle United	5.00
42302	K Gillespie	Newcastle United	3.50
42303	D Batty	Newcastle United	2.50
42005	J Barnes	Newcastle United	3.00
42401	B Laudrup	Rangers	6.50
42402	*P Gascoigne*	*Rangers*	*8.00*
42403	J Thern	Rangers	3.00
42404	J Albertz	Rangers	4.00
42501	B Carbone	Sheffield Wednesday	3.00
42701	J Magilton	Sheffield Wednesday	2.00
42502	*M Pembridge*	*Sheffield Wednesday*	*2.00*
42504	G Hyde	Sheffield Wednesday	1.00
42505	G Whittingham	Sheffield Wednesday	1.50
42702	R Slater	Southampton	0.75
42704	K Richardson	Southampton	0.50
42705	C Palmer	Southampton	2.00
42706	M Oakley	Southampton	1.50
42601	A Sekerlioglu	St Johnstone	0.75
42801	A Sinton	Tottenham Hotspur	3.00
42802	*D Anderton*	*Tottenham Hotspur*	*3.00*
42803	R Fox	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00
42804	D Howells	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00
42805	D Ginola	Tottenham Hotspur	3.00
42901	E Berkovic	West Ham United	2.50
42902	S Lomas	West Ham United	2.50
42903	J Moncur	West Ham United	2.00
43001	R Earle	Wimbledon	4.00
43002	N Ardley	Wimbledon	2.00
43003	V Jones	Wimbledon	2.00
42904	M Hughes	Wimbledon	2.00
43004	C Hughes	Wimbledon	1.50

STRIKERS

Code	Name	Team	Price £m
50101	B Dodds	Aberdeen	4.00
50201	I Wright	Arsenal	7.50
50202	D Bergkamp	Arsenal	8.50
50301	D Yorke	Aston Villa	6.00
50302	S Collymore	Aston Villa	5.00
50303	S Milosevic	Aston Villa	3.00
50401	G Hristov	Barnsley	1.50
50402	*J Hendrie*	*Barnsley*	*1.50*
51102	A Ward	Barnsley	2.00
50403	C Marcelle	Barnsley	1.00
50501	K Gallacher	Blackburn Rovers	5.50
50502	M Dahlin	Blackburn Rovers	4.00
50503	C Sutton	Blackburn Rovers	6.00
50602	N Blake	Bolton Wanderers	3.50
50603	P Beardsley	Bolton Wanderers	2.00
53003	D Holdsworth	Bolton Wanderers	3.00
51601	D Jackson	Celtic	4.00
50703	*T Johnson*	*Celtic*	*2.50*
50704	S Donnelly	Celtic	4.50
50705	H Larsson	Celtic	4.50
50801	G Zola	Chelsea	7.00
50802	M Hughes	Chelsea	5.00
50901	D Dublin	Coventry City	5.00
50902	D Huckerby	Coventry City	2.50
50903	N Whelan	Coventry City	2.00
51001	N Shipperley	Crystal Palace	1.50
51003	*B Dyer*	*Crystal Palace*	*2.00*
51004	M Padovano	Crystal Palace	2.50
51101	D Sturridge	Derby County	4.00
51103	F Baiano	Derby County	4.50
51104	D Burton	Derby County	1.50
51105	P Wanchope	Derby County	3.50
51201	A McLaren	Dundee United	3.00
51202	K Olofsson	Dundee United	4.00
51301	G Britton	Dunfermline	2.00
51401	*D Ferguson*	*Everton*	*4.00*
51402	N Barmby	Everton	3.00
51404	D Cadamarteri	Everton	2.50
51501	J Robertson	Hearts	3.50
51502	J Hamilton	Hearts	3.00
51602	S Crawford	Hibernian	3.00
51701	P Wright	Kilmarnock	5.00
51702	A Mitchell	Kilmarnock	2.50
51801	J Hasselbaink	Leeds United	3.00
51803	*R Wallace*	*Leeds United*	*3.50*
51804	H Kewell	Leeds United	2.00
51901	S Claridge	Leicester City	2.50
51902	E Heskey	Leicester City	4.50
51903	I Marshall	Leicester City	2.50
51904	G Fenton	Leicester City	2.00
52001	R Fowler	Liverpool	8.00
52002	P Berger	Liverpool	3.00
52003	K Riedle	Liverpool	4.50
52004	*M Owen*	*Liverpool*	*4.50*
52101	O Solskjaer	Manchester United	7.50
52102	T Sheringham	Manchester United	7.00
52103	P Scholes	Manchester United	6.00
52201	O Coyle	Motherwell	3.00
52202	*T Coyne*	*Motherwell*	3.00
52301	A Shearer	Newcastle United	10.00
52303	F Asprilla	Newcastle United	6.00
52304	J Tomasson	Newcastle United	2.00
52401	M Negri	Rangers	8.50
52402	S Rozental	Rangers	3.50
52403	G Durie	Rangers	3.00
52501	A Booth	Sheffield Wednesday	3.00
50702	P Di Canio	Sheffield Wednesday	3.00
52503	*R Humphreys*	*Sheffield Wednesday*	*2.00*
52701	M Le Tissier	Southampton	7.00
52502	D Hirst	Southampton	2.50
52702	E Ostenstad	Southampton	4.00
52704	K Davies	Southampton	3.50
52601	G O'Boyle	St Johnstone	1.50
52602	R Grant	St Johnstone	1.00
52801	S Iversen	Tottenham Hotspur	3.50
52302	L Ferdinand	Tottenham Hotspur	7.50
52802	*C Armstrong*	*Tottenham Hotspur*	*3.50*
52803	J Dominguez	Tottenham Hotspur	3.00
52901	J Hartson	West Ham United	4.50
52902	P Kitson	West Ham United	3.00
52903	I Dowie	West Ham United	1.50
53001	*M Gayle*	Wimbledon	4.00
53002	E Ekoku	Wimbledon	4.00
53004	C Cort	Wimbledon	3.00

MANAGERS

Code	Name	Team	Price £m
60102	A Miller	Aberdeen	1.50
60201	A Wenger	Arsenal	5.00
60301	B Little	Aston Villa	2.50
60401	D Wilson	Barnsley	0.50
60501	R Hodgson	Blackburn Rovers	3.50
60601	C Todd	Bolton Wanderers	1.50
60701	W Jansen	Celtic	4.00
60801	*R Gullit*	Chelsea	3.50
60901	G Strachan	Coventry City	1.00
61001	S Coppell	Crystal Palace	0.75
61101	J Smith	Derby County	2.50
61201	T McLean	*Dundee United*	*2.00*
61301	B Paton	Dunfermline	1.00
61401	H Kendall	Everton	2.00
61501	J Jefferies	Hearts	3.50
61601	J Duffy	Hibernian	2.00
61701	B Williamson	Kilmarnock	1.00
61801	G Graham	Leeds United	3.00
61901	M O'Neill	Leicester City	2.50
62001	R Evans	Liverpool	3.00
62101	A Ferguson	*Manchester United*	*5.00*
62201	A McLeish	Motherwell	1.00
62301	K Dalglish	Newcastle United	4.00
62401	W Smith	Rangers	5.00
62502	R Atkinson	Sheffield Wednesday	1.50
62701	D Jones	Southampton	0.50
62601	P Sturrock	St Johnstone	0.50
62802	C Gross	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00
62901	H Redknapp	West Ham United	2.00
63001	J Kinnear	Wimbledon	2.00

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Court of Appeal

Law Report December 20 1997

Power to order interim payment

Securities and Investments Board v Scandex Capital Management A/S and Another

Before Lord Justice Hobhouse, *Lord Justice Millett* and Lord Justice Otton

[Judgment December 16]

The court had jurisdiction under section 6(2) of the Financial Services *Act 1986* to order that an interim payment into court be made by a person found to have been knowingly concerned in carrying on unauthorised investment business in the United Kingdom in contravention of section 3.

The question whether a provision of a foreign law had the effect of entitling a person to carry on investment business in the UK was a *matter of* English law not foreign law and would depend on the construction of section 31 of the 1986 Act and the relevant regulations.

The Court of Appeal so stated allowing an appeal by the plaintiff, the Securities and Investments Board, now called the Financial Services Authority, from the refusal of Mr Justice Carnwath on *July 3, 1997* of the plaintiff's application that the second defendant, Jeremy Bartholomew-White, pay immediately the sum of £627,522 into court on account of his liability pursuant to section 6(2) of the 1986 Act.

The court also dismissed a cross-appeal by Mr Bartholomew-White from the decision of the judge that he had been knowingly concerned in the contravention of section 3 by the first defendant, Scandex Capital Management A/S.

Scandex was incorporated under Danish law on September 1, 1995. *The second defendant* was a shareholder of Scandex and its managing director.

Mr Alan Steinfeld, QC and Mr Christopher Harrison for the SIB; Mr Peter Griffiths for Mr Bartholomew-White.

LORD JUSTICE MILLETT said that section 3 of the 1986 Act provided that no person should *carry on an investment business in* the UK unless he was an authorised person under chapter III or an exempted person under chapter IV of the Act.

The defendant did not contend *that Scandex was an exempted* person. The question at issue was concerned with the effect of his alleged belief that it was an authorised person.

Section 6(2) gave the court power, if satisfied that a person had entered into any transaction in contravention of section 3, to order that person, and any person who appeared to the court to have been knowingly concerned in the contravention, to take such steps as the court might direct for restoring the parties to the position in which they were before the transaction was entered into.

There were several routes by which a person might become an authorised person within the meaning of section 3. The defendant relied on two of them.

One was if the person in question was within the definition of an authorised person in section 31, the other was if the person was a "European investment firm" within the meaning of the Financial Services Act 1986: see EEA Regulated Markets (Exemption) Order (SI 1995 No 3273).

The effect of the 1995 Regulations was twofold:

First, they disapplied section 3 of the 1986 Act in the case of a European investment firm but subjected such a firm to regulation 6, which prohibited it from carrying on investment business in the UK unless the requirements of paragraph 1 of Schedule 3 to the Regulations had been complied with.

That had the effect of imposing further requirements not found in section 31 of the 1986 Act before the firm could lawfully carry on investment business in the UK, and was necessary because regulation 3(1)(d) contained exceptions with the result that some bodies qualified as European investment firms without having complied with those further requirements.

Second, they prevented a quasi-European investment firm from claiming to be an authorised person pursuant to section 31. That was necessary to prevent such a firm from becoming an authorised *person under section 31 by obtaining* authorisation in its home state before it had complied with the additional requirements imposed by paragraph 1, Schedule 3 to the 1995 Regulations.

It was obvious that the word "authorised" in section 31(1)(c) did not mean merely "entitled". It could not sensibly be thought to have been the policy of Parliament to allow anyone to carry on an investment business in the UK without authorisation provided only that he was also carrying on such business without authorisation in an unregulated jurisdiction.

There were several indications in section 31 itself that the word "authorised" in section 31(1)(c) meant being in possession of a specific authorisation granted by the appropriate supervisory body.

Denmark was a member state within the meaning of section 31. Prior to January 1, 1996 it was lawful under Danish law for any person to carry on investment business in Denmark without authorisation but that did not make him "an authorised person" within section 31.

On December 28, 1995 Scandex applied to Finans, the Danish regulatory authority, for authorisation to carry on investment business in Denmark. That enabled it to take advantage of the transitional provisions under Danish law which entitled it to continue investment business after January 1, 1996 without authorisation, pending the detemination of its application.

In the meantime, it was not a European investment firm or a quasi-European investment firm within the meaning of the 1995 Regulations. Nor merely by making its application for authorisation did Scandex become "an authorised person" within the meaning of section 31 of the 1986 Act.

The defendant submitted that while ignorance of English law was no excuse, ignorance of Danish law was. He had deposed that he believed, on advice from Danish lawyers, that Scandex was authorised under transitional regulations to transact investment business throughout the European Union. If that was a *mistake*, he submitted, it was a mistake of *Danish law, and therefore to be* treated as a mistake of fact.

The difficulty with that argument was that the defendant was at all times fully aware of the position under Danish law. The *truth was that he knew that* Scandex was not authorised by the relevant regulatory body to carry on such business in Denmark, but was entitled to carry it on without authorisation for the time being. Being authorised and not needing to be authorised were two different things.

It did not matter if the defendant thought that there was no difference between those two concepts in Danish law. If he made any mistake at all, it was that he believed that, under English law, the fact that Scandex could carry on investment business in Denmark without the specific authorisation of the Danish supervisory authority was sufficient to authorise it to carry on a similar business in the UK without the necessary authority under the 1986 Act. That would be a mistake of English law.

Whether a provision of a foreign law had the effect of entitling a person to carry on business in the UK was a matter of English law. If the defendant thought that it was a *matter of foreign law*, that too was a mistake of English law.

To correct the defendant's mistaken impression it would be unnecessary to consider Danish law or consult Danish lawyers. It would be enough to consider section 31 of the 1986 Act and the 1995 Regulations.

The defendant had no arguable defence to a charge that he was "knowingly concerned" in the contravention in question. His Lordship would dismiss his cross-appeal.

Before their Lordships, the plaintiff invoked section 6(2) of the 1986 Act, which authorised the court, if satisfied that a person had been knowingly concerned in a contravention of section 3 "to take such steps ... for restoring the parties to the position in which they were before the transaction was entered into".

The question was whether an order for interim payment into court was such a step. Section 6(2) was considered in *Securities and Investment Board v Pantell SA (No 2)* ([1993] Ch 256) *where* the principal judgment was given by Lord Justice Scott.

Did section 6(2) authorise the court to order an interim payment into court? His Lordship did not *see why not. In Pantell* Lord Justice Sott had been faced with a different problem. The persons liable to make payment were solicitors and were likely to be able *to meet the judgment in full, either* out of their own resources or from the proceeds of insurance.

The form of order which Lord Justice Scott envisaged was suitable for the case before him. It did not follow that it was suitable for every case or even for the great majority of cases. Nor did it follow that it was the only kind of order which the court could make even *after final judgment*.

His Lordship saw no reason why the steps in question must be such as to effect immediate restoration in full. The powers conferred on the court were characterised by their extreme flexibility.

In his Lordship's judgment, they included power to direct the taking of steps which were preparatory to payment to investors, and it was *sufficient that* they were *steps* towards the restoration of the parties to their former position so far as possible.

His Lordship was satisfied that they included power, after final determination of the necessary accounts and inquiries, to order payment into court or to a suitable person, who could be an officer of the plaintiff, appointed as receiver, *so that a pro rata distribution* could be made to investors under the directions of the court.

And if such an order could be made after final judgment when necessary accounts and inquiries had been completed, then an order for interim payment could be made after interlocutory judgment, and before the accounts and inquiries had been taken.

The only limitation was that all such orders must be by reference to particular transactions, but so long as that was the case then every payment into court with a *view to its later distribution to the* parties to a transaction and every payment out of court to one or other of such parties was a step for restoring them to the position in which they were before the transaction was entered into.

Lord Justice Otton and Lord Justice Hobhouse agreed.

Solicitors: Stephenson Harwood; Edwin Coe.

Court of Appeal

Seeking disclosure of foreign documents

In re Mid-East Trading Ltd (No 2)

Before Lord Justice Peter Gibson, Lord Justice Thorpe and Lord Justice Chadwick

[Judgment December 9]

The principle that save in exceptional circumstances a foreigner not party to an action should not be required to produce documents outside the jurisdiction concerning business transacted outside the jurisdiction was applicable when considering whether or not to make an order for disclosure under section 236 of the Insolvency Act 1986.

However, in so far as the making of an order under section 236 in respect of documents abroad involved an assertion of sovereignty then that was an assertion *which the legislature must* be taken to have intended the courts to make in appropriate cases. It was not for the courts to erect the additional hurdle of exceptional circumstances.

The Court of Appeal so stated in a reserved judgment when dismissing an appeal by Lehman Brothers Holdings plc, Lehman Brothers Inc, Lehman Brothers International (Europe) and Lehman Brothers Ltd against an order made by Mr Justice Evans-Lombe (*The Times* May 6, 1997; [1997] 3 All ER 481) on an application by liquidators of Mid-East Trading Ltd, a company incorporated in Lebanon and wound up in November 1995, under section 236 of the 1986 Act, that the Lehman companies should disclose all correspondence, memoranda and other documents concerning the property of Mid-East Trading Ltd.

Mr Michael Brindle, QC, for the Lehman companies; Mr Michael Crystal, QC and Mr Robin Dicker for the liquidators.

LORD JUSTICE CHADWICK, giving the judgment of the court, said that the appellants accepted that there had been dealings between Mid-East and Lehman companies in New York and that documents relating to those had been generated in New York.

It was submitted that to make an *order for the production of those* documents would infringe the principle identified in *Mackinnon v Donaldson* ([1986] Ch 482, 493G). Mr Justice Evans-Lombe had accepted that the principle was applicable to a decision whether or not to make an order under section 236 of the 1986 Act.

He accepted also that the business of the Lehman companies, although not that of a banker, was sufficiently similar to require a recognition that duties of confidence to customers would arise. But he took the view that applica*tion of the principle did not* lead *to* the conclusion that no order should be made.

The liquidators challenged the premise that the *Mackinnon* principle had any direct application to a decision whether or not to make an order under section 236 of the 1986 Act. It was said, correctly, that in the *Mackinnon* case, the orders were sought in the context of inter partes litigation.

In that case the court was asked *to make* or confirm orders which would compel a person against whom there was no claim to assist in its own administration of justice in pending proceedings between other parties by producing documents which could be used in evidence in those proceedings.

The exercise of the court's jurisdiction in that context was, plainly, an assertion of sovereignty. The *court, as an organ of the state, had* to be careful not to assert or exercise sovereignty where that could trespass upon the sovereignty of another state.

By contrast, it was said, the making of an order under section 236 in respect of documents which were not in the jurisdiction did not involve an exercise in sovereignty; alternatively, that it was an assertion of *sovereignty which the* legislature must be taken to have intended the courts to make.

In their Lordships' judgment, there was force in the submission that, in so far as the making of an order under section 236 in respect of documents which were abroad did involve an assertion of sovereignty then that was an assertion which the legislature must be taken *to have intended the courts* to make in appropriate cases.

If that was the correct view, then it was not for the courts to erect the additional hurdle of "exceptional circumstances".

The power to make an order under section 236 was to be exercised in accordance with the principles explained by the House of Lords in *British and Commonwealth Holdings plc v Spicer and Oppenheim* ([1993] AC 426).

The applicant had to satisfy the court that after balancing all the factors, there was a proper case for such an order to be made. A proper case was one where the liquidator reasonably required to see the documents in order to carry out his statutory functions and production of the documents did not impose an unnecessary or unreasonable burden on the person required to produce them.

In applying that test and, in particular, in considering what burden would be imposed on a *bank required to disclose details of* another customer's affairs, the court would of course give weight to any risk that compliance with the order would or might expose the bank to claims for breach of confidence or to criminal penalties in the jurisdiction where the documents were.

Where that was a real risk it seemed to their Lordships likely *that the Companies Court would* be slow to order production; at least if there was some other route by which the documents could be obtained which afforded protection to the bank.

But that was because the risk that the bank would be exposed to liability was a factor to be weighed with others and not because there was some special hurdle of "exceptional circumstances" *to be overcome* by the applicant.

Mr Justice Evans-Lombe was satisfied that there was no real risk that the Lehman companies would be exposed to liability if required to comply with an order to produce documents which were in New York.

Solicitors: Freshfields; Lovell White Durrant.

Construing term of lease

Brown v Gloucester City Council

Although the term of a lease, meaning its duration, was not usually regarded as one of the terms and conditions on which a lease was granted, it was not a word of art and should therefore be construed to give effect to what the parties had intended.

The Court of Appeal (Sir Stephen Brown, President, Lord Justice Millett and Sir Christopher Slade) so held on November 3, allowing an appeal by the City of Gloucester Council against Judge Rich sitting as a deputy High Court judge on May 13, 1996 who declared *that on a true* construction of the lease dated March 13, 1989 the length of term of the hypothetical leases for rent review purposes should be the 120-year residue of the term granted by the original lease.

LORD JUSTICE MILLETT said that while the term of a lease was not usually regarded as one of the terms and conditions on which a lease was granted it was not a word of art so that its meaning would readily yield to context.

The purpose of a rent review clause was to keep the rent in line with current property values; neither party could have intended to provide the other with a windfall based on an artificial basis of *valuation*.

Here the context supported the implied term that the duration of the hypothetical lease should be such term as the landlord might be reasonably expected to grant and the tenant reasonably expected to take in all the circumstances, see *Prudential Assurance v Salisburys Handbags* ([1992] 1 EGLR 153), in order to carry the purposes of the rent review clause into effect.

Motive for threatened publication irrelevant

Holley and Others v Smyth

Before Lord Justice Staughton, Lord Justice Auld and Sir Christopher Slade

[Judgment December 4]

A defendant's motive in seeking to publish material claimed by the plaintiff to be defamatory was *irrelevant* in determining whether the threatened publication ought to *be restrained.*

Where, therefore, a defendant threatened to publish material unless the plaintiff paid him to remain silent, the plaintiff was not entitled to an interlocutory injunction to restrain the publication unless the material was manifestly untrue in accordance with the rule in *Bonnard v Perryman* ([1891] 2 Ch 269). His remedy was to sue in defamation after publication.

The Court of Appeal so held by a majority, Lord Justice Staughton dissenting, allowing the appeal of the defendant, Duncan John Smyth, *and discharging an injunction* granted by Mr Justice Ian Kennedy on June 20, 1997 restraining publication of draft press releases concerning the plaintiffs: Sydney Alfred Holley, a director of the second plaintiff, SD & R Trading Ltd, a Jersey company, the third plaintiff, Henry Ansbacher & Co, a merchant bank, and the fourth plaintiff, Ansbacher (Jersey) Ltd, a trust company and mer*chant bank of which Mr Holley* was the company secretary.

The defendant, the sole beneficiary of a trust, threatened to send to the media press releases alleging fraud against the first and second plaintiffs and a failure by the third and fourth plaintiffs to investigate the fraud which it was their responsibility to do. The purpose of the threat was to persuade the plaintiffs to pay the defendant £200,000, the amount by which he claimed the trust had been defrauded.

The plaintiffs brought an action *for libel against the defendant and* applied for an interlocutory injunction to restrain publication. The defendant asserted the truth of his allegations, and maintained his intention to justify his assertions if he was allowed to publish and was subsequently sued for defamation.

Mr William Bennett for the defendant: Miss Presiley Baxendale, QC and Mr Gerard Clarke for the plaintiffs.

LORD JUSTICE AULD said that the court was asked to decide whether a defendant who threatened defamation of the plaintiff to obtain money from him as the price of silence could rely on the rule in *Bonnard v Perryman* that interlocutory relief to restrain defamation was not ordinarily granted where there was a defence *or claim of justification unless the* plaintiff could show that it was plainly untrue.

Mr Justice Ian Kennedy, on the evidence, was unable to find that the plea of justification was plainly untrue. He decided, nevertheless, to grant interlocutory relief save in respect of the threatened publication to public regulatory and investigative authorities.

He held that the *Bonnard v Perryman* rule was founded on the right of free speech and did not protect a defendant whose motive was to extract money from the plaintiff as the price of not exercising it.

Authorities since *Bonnard v Perryman* acknowledged the strength of the rule and continued to articulate the two associated reasons for it: (i) that defences of justification and fair comment were for the jury not the judge to decide, and (ii) freedom of speech, although not always giving the same relative importance to each: see *Monson v Tussauds Ltd* ([1894] 1 QB 671), *Fraser v Evans* ([1969] 1 All ER 8), *Herbage v Pressdram Ltd* ([1984] 1 WLR 1160) and *Khashoggi v IPC Magazines* ([1986] 1 WLR 1412).

In a number of comparatively recent authorities the courts had expressly declined to restrain, as an exception from the general rule in *Bonnard v Perryman*, a threatened libel intended or calculated to damage a plaintiff and made as a means of putting pressure on him to compensate the defendant for some claimed wrong: *Crest Homes Ltd v Ascott* ([1980] 6 FSR 396), *Bestobell Paints Ltd v Bigg* ([1975] FSR 421) and *Fayed v The Observer Ltd* (*The Times* July 14, 1986).

The authorities established that neither the would-be libeller's motive nor the manner in which he threatened publication nor the potential damage to the plaintiff was normally a basis for making an exception. Motive was logically irrelevant to the defendant's entitlement to exercise his right to freedom of speech if what he had to say was or might be true.

In particular, English jurisprudence had rejected as candidates for exception motives of vindictiveness or pecuniary gain. *There was nothing* unusual in an aggrieved person seeking what he considered to be his due by threatening to resort to the media if his claim was not met while hoping that it would not be necessary.

His Lordship rejected the notion that the defendant's threat to libel deserved consideration as an exception because it might be a criminal offence of blackmail. Save in the most exceptional case, which this was not, it would be wrong in interlocutory civil proceedings to deny a defendant his right to publish on the basis of at best a contingent finding of criminality on incomplete evidence without the rigour of the criminal process.

The potential damage to the plaintiffs was not of such an exceptional nature or gravity to take the case outside the general rule. Accordingly, the circumstances did not justify regarding it as an exception to the rule.

On the material before it the court was not entitled to conclude that the defendant's threatened publication was plainly untrue.

Sir Christopher Slade agreed and Lord Justice Staughton delivered a dissenting judgment.

Solicitors: Wright Hassall & Co, Leamington Spa; Dibb Lupton Alsop.

Infecting dose date

Creutzfeld Jakob Disease Litigation

Newman and Others v Medical Research Council and Another

Following the judgment of Mr Justice Morland on December 19, 1996 that those cases of Creutzfeld Jakob Disease among recipients of human growth hormone who began their treatment after July 1, 1977 were caused by the negligence of the Department of Health or the Medical Research Council, so that those claims from plaintiffs whose treatment *had ended before that* date failed and that claims by those whose treatment began after that date succeeded, those patients *whose treatment straddled July 1*, 1977 were entitled on appeal to adduce evidence as to whether or not they would have continued to be treated with the hormone after that date and whether or not the infecting dose had been received before or after that date.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Kennedy, Lord Justice Judge and Lord Justice Chadwick) so stated on November 18 in a reserved judgment allowing an appeal by Eric and Maureen Newman on behalf of the estate of Terence Newman and others *against the order of Mr Justice* Morland on December 19, 1996 and remitting the case for further directions.

Scots Law Report December 20 1997 House of Lords

Proprietors did not create lease

Clydesdale Bank plc v Davidson and Others

Same v Same (Consolidated appeals)

Before Lord Goff of Chieveley, Lord Jauncey of Tullichettle, Lord Lloyd of Berwick, *Lord Hope* of Craighead and Lord Clyde

[*Speeches December 16*]

Pro indiviso heritable proprietors could not validly create a lease over the property in favour of one of their number.

The House of Lords dismissed two appeals by Alexander George Davidson from the Second Division of the Inner House of the Court of Session (Lord Ross, Lord Justice-Clerk, Lord McCluskey and Lord Morison) (1996 *SLT* 437) who on November 24, 1995 by a majority (Lord McCluskey dissenting) had refused appeals by Mr Davidson from Peterhead Sheriff Court.

The sheriff (K. A. McLernan) had granted decrees in favour of the pursuers, Clydesdale Bank plc, in two actions raised by them against the defenders, Mr Davidson and others, and the sheriff principal (D. J. Risk, QC) had refused appeals by Mr Davidson and two other defenders.

Mr D. A. Y. Menzies, QC and Mr R. E. Aird for Mr Davidson; Mr W. C. Galbraith, QC and Mr S. A. Bennett for the bank.

LORD CLYDE said that on January 11, 1977 Mr Davidson and his parents had executed a deed described as a "minute of lease" between the three of them, referred to as "the landlords", and Mr *Davidson*, referred to as "the tenant". It narrated that Mr Davidson had occupied the farms and lands to which it related for a number of years as tenant of the landlords and then purported to let them to him for three years at a rent of £4,000 a year.

The lands had formerly been owned by a partnership consisting of Mr Davidson and his parents. *That partnership* had been dissolved in 1968 and the lands thereafter conveyed to Mr Davidson and his parents as pro indiviso proprietors in the proportions of one half to Mr Davidson and one quarter each to his parents.

On February 24, 1977 and in 1985 Mr Davidson and his parents had granted standard securities over the lands in favour of the bank in security of sums *due to the bank* by virtue of bonds granted by Mr Davidson.

In 1988 the bank had served calling-up notices on Mr Davidson in respect *of the* securities. He had failed to make full payment and had accordingly been in default under the standard conditions applicable. His estates had been sequestrated and a permanent trustee appointed.

The bank had raised two actions each craving declarator of its right to enter into possession of the lands and an order ordaining Mr Davidson and others to remove from them. In his defences, Mr Davidson had maintained that he was entitled to continue to occupy the lands as an agricultural tenant under the minute of lease.

The question was whether a valid lease of lands could be constituted by co-proprietors in favour of one of their number. Differing views had been expressed in the textbooks and authorities.

It was well established that no person might enter into a contract with himself. There was, however, no objection in law to the making of a contract between co-proprietors regarding the use or management of the common property on *any terms they chose, including* arranging for one of them to have the sole occupation of it, but it was a distinct question whether such agreement could constitute a lease.

The rights of each co-proprietor extended over the whole of the lands. In light of that basic characteristic it did not seem to his Lordship that any or all of the co-proprietors could validly create a lease in favour of one of their own number.

If Mr Davidson's co-proprietors had chosen to surrender their rights of use so as to leave him in exclusive possession that *had* not created in him a right of tenancy but simply removed a qualification on the rights that he enjoyed as a co-proprietor.

He had thereafter occupied the lands by virtue not of a right granted to him by the co-proprietors but of the right that he had possessed all along as a co-*proprietor*.

A right of sole occupation could not co-exist with a right of ownership, albeit co-ownership, in the same person. The greater right must absorb and extinguish the lesser right.

The narrow path that Lord Mackay of Clashfern had identified in *Pinkerton v Pinkerton* (1986 SLT 673) whereby a lease could validly be constituted between a sole proprietor and several persons including himself as tenants was not available where the greater *right was held in its entirety by the* landlord.

By virtue of that right he could grant the lesser right of occupation to others along with himself, but the co-proprietors in the present case had been able to grant nothing to Mr Davidson as sole tenant when he had already had a right of occupation of the whole lands.

His right to occupy had been attributable not to any grant by his parents but to his own right as co-proprietor. What had been described as a rent had been truly *a compensation for the surrender* of his parents' rights to share in the use of the lands.

What had been achieved by the consent of the three co-proprietors *was that* Mr Davidson *had* obtained as an act of management and administration the sole possession of the lands, but that had not secured for him a real right as tenant nor had it created a valid lease.

Lord Goff and Lord Lloyd agreed with Lord Clyde; Lord Jauncey delivered an opinion concurring with Lord Hope and Lord Clyde; Lord Hope delivered an opinion concurring with Lord Clyde.

Solicitors: Lawford & Co, Richmond for Steedman Ramage, WS, Edinburgh, for A. C. Morrison & Richards, Aberdeen; Laytons for Alex Morison & Co, WS, Edinburgh, for Wilsone & Duffus, Aberdeen.

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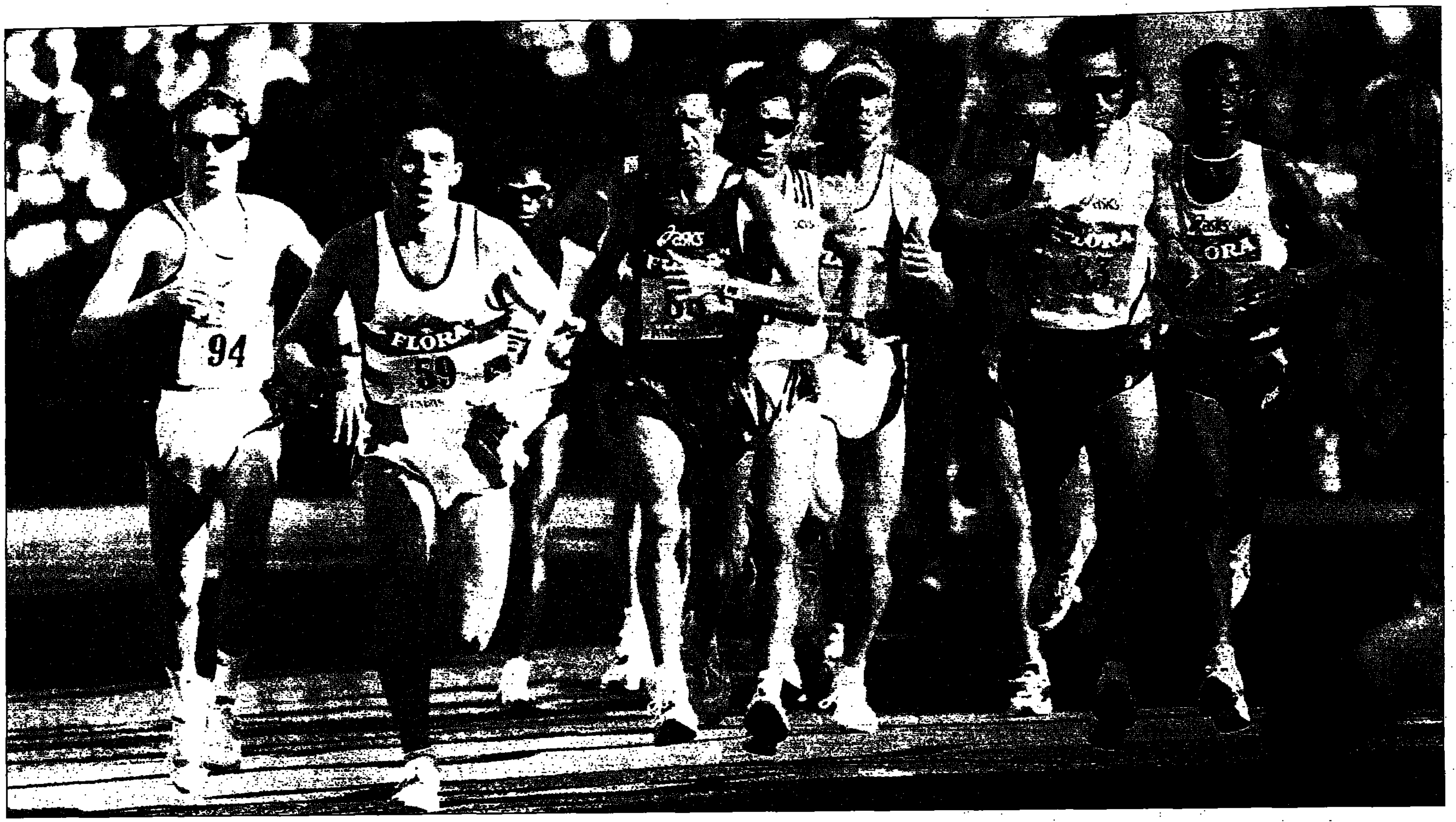
CHANGING TIMES

AN EXCLUSIVE COMPETITION THE TIMES

A chance to go the distance for Diana



Wanted: 20 people to run the marathon as fundraisers for the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund

FLORA
LONDON MARATHON

The Times has secured 20 places for its readers to take part in the 1998 Flora London Marathon and help raise more than the target of £5 million for the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund.

The Times 20 will be part of Team Flora, in which all the runners will be fund-raising for the Memorial Fund, one of the two official charities for the race next year. A special panel has been set up to select readers wanting to 'Run for Diana' over the historic distance through the streets of London on Sunday, April 26.

The Times will also publish the complete results of the race — from the international heroes and heroines at the front to the determined joggers at the back.

There has already been unprecedented interest in the 1998 event. A record 100,000 people applied to enter, including 20,000 who specifically responded to an invitation to run for the Memorial Fund.

This year, it was televised in more than 100 countries and 600,000 people lined the London streets to cheer on the 29,135 competitors, who ran from Greenwich to the Mall, triumphantly finishing the course of 26 miles 385 yards.

The fund-raising for the Memorial Fund will be poignant for many of the competitors next year because they will be running on the streets where the coffin of the Princess was carried at her funeral on September 6. It will also be 10 years since she was the official starter of the 1988 event.

Applications should not come from people who have already been informed that they have been selected to take part in the 1998 race.

They should be from those people, who have already been rejected or from anyone else who feels they can be inspired by the attempt to run the epic distance. Both men and women, experienced runners and novices, will be considered.

The names of the chosen 20 will be published in *The Times* on Monday, January 19 and the newspaper will then highlight some of the runners' stories and preparation in the build-up to the event itself.

All the members of Team Flora will be supported and helped with all aspects of the marathon running and fund-raising, from training and nutrition to self-motivation, by a specially-selected support team. Every penny raised by the 250 runners will go to the Memorial Fund, as all administration costs will be covered by the Flora London Marathon.

THE TIMES DIANA TEAM COMPETITION ENTRY FORM

Read the form below carefully: the judges will base their decision on what you reveal in this form. All the winners who take part in the marathon on April 26 will be asked to sign a pledge form relating to their commitment to raise funds for the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund and to remit such funds by May 31, 1998. Our entry forms for the chance to win a place in the Diana Team should reach the following address by January 9, 1998: *The Times* Diana Team, Flora London Marathon, PO Box 5071, Leighton Buzzard, LU7 7FY. Judging will take place on January 14 and the winners will be informed by telephone by January 19.

Title.................... **Initials** ....
Surname ....
Address ....
....
....
Day tel ....
Eve tel ....
Age .... **Female** ☐ **Male** ☐
Occupation ....
Which category *do you wish to enter?*
Men ☐ **Women** ☐
Do you suffer from any illness/es?
....
Have you been in hospital for an operation?
If yes, state what and when
....
....
Have you, a relative or friend, ever met Princess Diana? If yes, describe the occasion
....
....
....
Have you, a relative or friend, any connection with any of the Diana, Princess of Wales, charities, or a special reason for wanting to be in the *Diana team?* Describe your connection
....
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Have you ever competed in a marathon before?
....
How much money did you raise?
....
For which organisation/s?
....
....
Have you raised funds for any organisation/s before?
....
Describe how much you raised and how you did it
....
....
....
....
Do you have any outstanding achievements of which *you are proud? Tell us about them*
....
....
....
....
What are your hobbies?
....
....
State, in not more than 50 words, why you deserve a place in this year's marathon
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....

Please send the completed entry form to:
***The Times*/ Diana Team, London Marathon,**
PO Box 5071, Leighton Buzzard, LU7 7FY

CHANGING TIMES

هكذا من الأصل

THE SECTION FOR CARS, BIKES, BOATS AND EVERYONE ON THE MOVE

go

The car made from bottles galore

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How the other half go hunting

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A pilot who rose to the challenge

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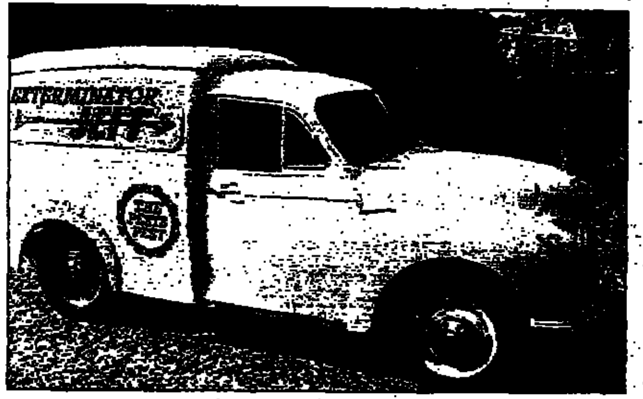
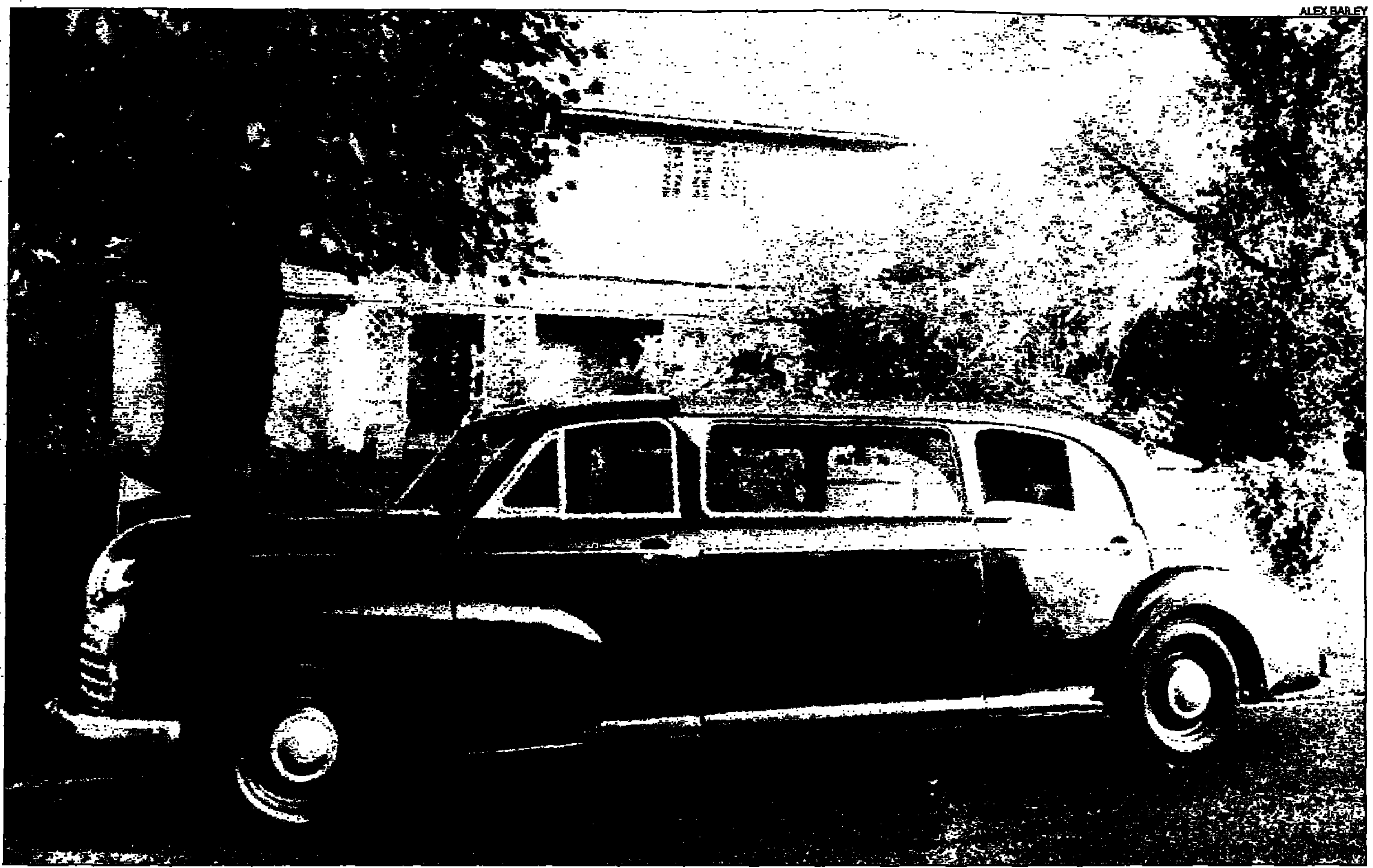
SATURDAY DECEMBER 20 1997

Minor celebrity at 50 years old

Kevin Eason on the stodgy British mainstay that has become a new big-screen icon



Minor van belonging to henchman Jeff the Terminator



ALEX BAILEY

Oxford bags: an extraordinary stretched version of a venerable Morris Oxford features among the "poached eggs" that fill the film version of the classic children's story

In a gentler world where the beer was warm and the cricket on the green was played out under a bright sun, everyone would drive a Morris Minor.

And they do in the imaginary screen world of *The Borrowers*, Mary Norton's charming story of 4in-high people who live in the nooks and crannies of an English family home.

Little Morrises are the only cars to populate the cobbled streets in the film version of the tale, one of the Christmas blockbusters this year and starring John Goodman, recognisable from his role as the television husband of Roseanne Barr.

> 'With their skinny tyres and primitive interiors, they had the most distinctive exhaust noise'

Burly Goodman towers over the Minors and Oxfords, including an extraordinary stretched version of an Oxford and a Minor van belonging to Jeff the Terminator, the Pest's Pest. Though how Goodman, one of Hollywood's biggest actors, would cope at the wheel of a Minor remains to be revealed in the movie.

For the lovable Moggie defined postwar British motoring: it was small, practical and about as luxurious as powdered eggs.

Even Lord Nuffield, William Morris himself, was less than impressed when the covers were pulled from the first prototype 50 years ago. "Looks like a poached egg," he huffed sullenly at his design team, eyes narrowing at the pasty, thin young chap who joined Morris just before the outbreak of the war.

Unusually, the designer — Sir Alec Issigonis, who later went on to invent a little model called the Mini — was given responsibility for every piece of the car. He later said he had drawn everything down to the door handles and the little knob on the tiny glovebox. So he was more than hurt when Nuffield treated his little baby with such contempt. Fortunately, Reg Hanks, Morris's vice-chairman, had the vision to believe that the car could be a winner.

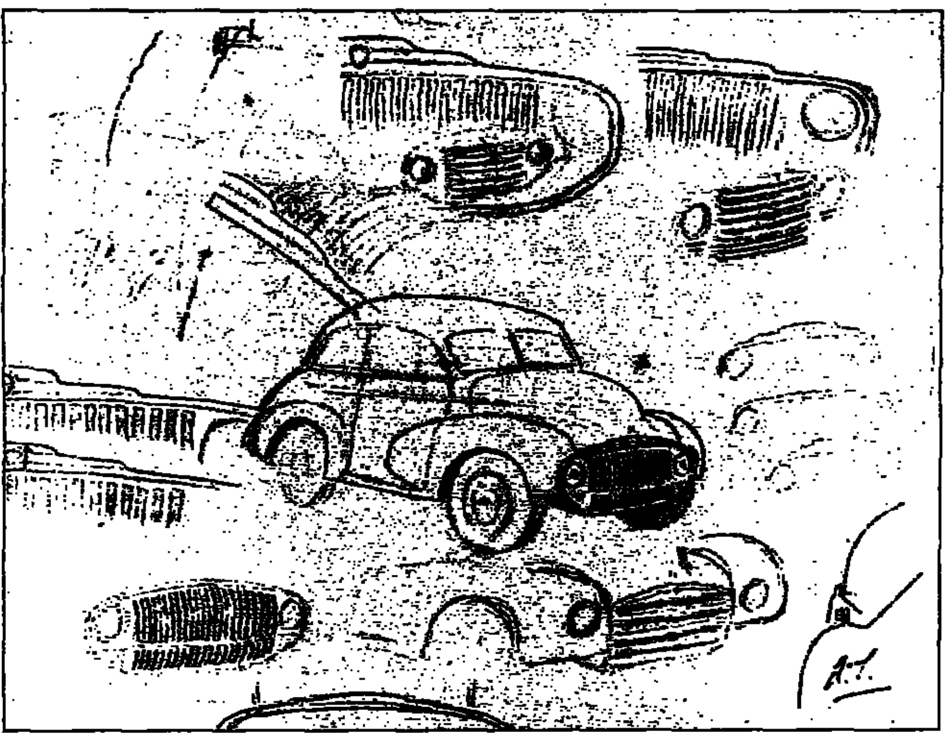
It was more than that — for the Morris Minor took its place as one of the icons of British motoring for generations who wouldn't know a Ferrari from a tractor under normal circumstances.

By 1960, Morris had sold a million; the car was in production at the Cowley factory in Oxford for almost 23 years. Typically though, Morris could have sold more but for pathetic under-investment and a lack of ambition which meant that, unlike Volkswagen's Beetle, the car was little exported and hardly developed at all over the years, apart from minor engine upgrades and a bit of smartening up of the bodywork.

That the lack of change probably only served to endear the familiar "poached egg" to motorists who were watching the roads fill up with new-fangled and increasingly fashionable models from Japan and Germany.

But if you grew up in the Fifties, you knew somebody who had a Morris Minor. With their skinny tyres and primitive interiors, they had one of the most distinctive exhaust noises of any car, emitting an extraordinary raspberry as the spindly gearstick was shoved up a notch.

And they were incredibly simple and durable. The first cars were fitted with prewar side-valve 903cc engines which plopped into the engine bay with room to spare, so if running repairs were needed, even a driver with the worst case of fingers and thumbs could find a way around the carburettor, plugs and points.



Issigonis's original sketches: he designed everything down to the glovebox handle

Nº 1
SSY LINE
MORRIS MINOR
1,000,000

Minor sold in droves — but for the company's apathy, it could have sold many more

To prove just how tough the Minor was, Morris conducted its own test in 1952: a nonstop 10,000-mile run.

Engineers wanted to know how the mechanical parts would stand up to running without cooling down. They devised a special trailer, on to which the Minor would run for refuelling and driver changes without having to stop, and then took the car to the famous Goodwood circuit in Sussex.

The run started at 6am on October 1. SJO 624 was fitted with a new 803cc engine provided by Austin, Morris's stablemate in the newly-formed British Motor Corporation, and off it chugged around the windswept track. Almost ten days later, the car achieved 10,000.76 miles at an average speed of about 45mph and returned 41.9mpg — pretty good for a car even today.

But its originator was Issigonis, one of the most brilliant minds the motor industry has produced and probably the only designer next to Ferdinand Porsche (creator of the VW Beetle and Porsche 911) who could field two entrants in the league of top ten legendary cars, with the Mini and Minor.

Even he could not have guessed, though, that 50 years on from that crushing putdown, his "poached egg" would be the unlikely star of a global cinema smash.

LANDMARKS IN THE MOGGY'S LIFE

- First Morris sold was an Oxford in 1913
- Last Morris was sold in 1983 when it was phased out by BL, later Rover
- First British car with headlamps faired into the wings was the 1939 Morris Series-E
- Britain's first £100 four-cylinder car was a Minor two-seater convertible, launched on New Year's day, 1931

Rover 14s used to be owned by doctors and other professionals, as they were considerably dearer than Austins

TV star saved from death plot

Vaughan Freeman on a rare Rover set to be killed with Penelope Keith

Film-makers who had planned to crash and burn a rare prewar Rover saloon in the interests of artistic integrity have changed their minds, and instead the car has found a new lease of life with an enthusiast.

The Rover, which will be seen driven by Penelope Keith this Spring in the televison series *Coming Home*, was to have been destroyed within the next few weeks in a dramatic flaming end to the series and to the Penelope Keith character.

When news of the automotive murder spread through the classic car community, there was outrage. Now that the 1936 Rover 14 is to be spared, relief is the order of the day.

The Rover would not have been the first star car to "die" at the behest of film and television directors.

An E-Type Jaguar was just one of the cars that was filmed apparently meeting a violent on-screen end in the classic film *The Italian Job*, and every week cars are wrecked in filmed cops-and-robbers chases. The potential loss of the Rover touched a nerve however.

Cliff Evans of the Rover Sports Register, which has 1,400 members who own all sorts of Rovers, says: "The Rover 14 is a nice car. My own car is the 1935 Rover 12, which is very similar, and, like the 14, does not have a boot. Instead it has a spare wheel on the back with a metal cover and brackets for extensions that carry luggage.

"The Rover 14 was mostly used by doctors and professional people, because, compared with the Austin and Morris cars of the time they were around £150 dearer and would sell for £300 to £350.

"They are not hugely valuable, but a car that has been well restored might fetch £8,000 and a car in perfect condition would fetch a little more. There are not very many of them around however. Even at Rover club meetings you only see a few.

"I am very pleased that this car has been reprieved. I hate to see them destroyed. You often see something like a Jaguar MkII being tipped over a cliff and it always make me gasp with horror.

He adds: "It is always better to see a Rover restored and back on the road rather than being destroyed, but then perhaps I am biased."

Chris Thompson, art director for Portman Productions, which makes the television series *Coming Home*, says: "The plan initially was that the car would be destroyed in a crash and that it would burst into flames."

The series is based on Rosamunde Pilcher's novel of the same name, which specifies that the character portrayed by Penelope Keith drives a Rover, and that the vehicle, with her in it, dies a fiery death.

Now though viewers will see the car heading at speed towards a haycart. Images will flash between exterior shots of the car heading for oblivion, and to an increasingly frantic Penelope Keith inside the car. But the carnage will be left to the viewer's imagination, as the crash is blacked out.

"The plan at first was actually to crash the car. Now though we are going to cheat. We have spent quite a bit of money restoring the car, in the region of £2,000, and although it is not in immaculate condition, it seems extravagant to destroy it."

The car has already found a new, more restful home, having been sold after completion of filming for the modest sum of £1,000. A Portman Productions spokesperson said: "I think in the end we were rather generous when we came to sell it, but it is nice that it did get saved."

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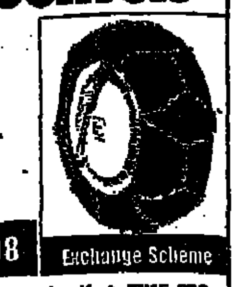

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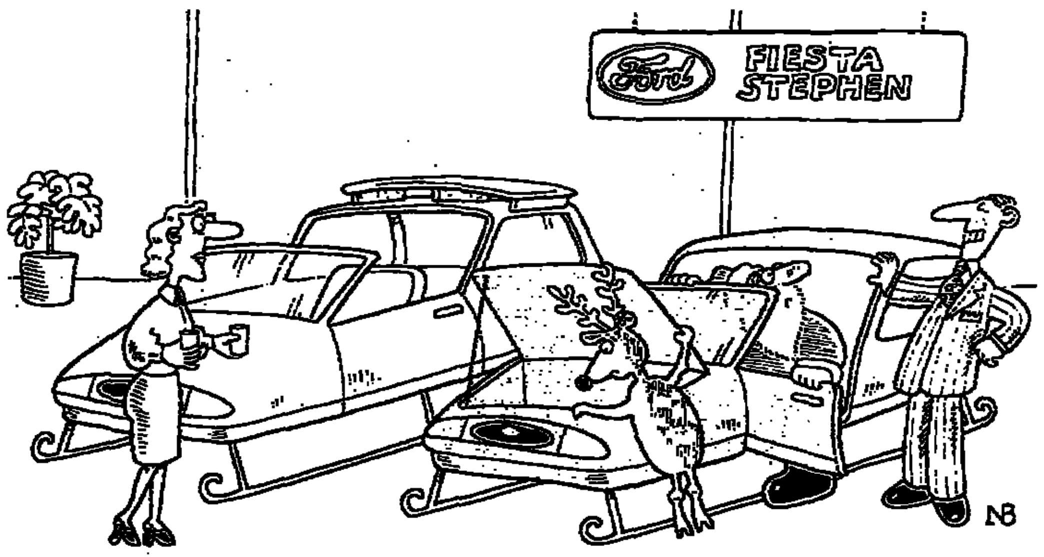
Once in Royal David's City stood a lowly battered sled: a tale of festive forecourts

Nothing's too dear for Santa at the Sleigh sales



DRIVEN TO DISTRACTION

Peter Barnard

Santa grasped the handle of the up-and-over door and heaved it, up and then over, to reveal a machine that had a long way to go. He sighed. His machine had already been a long way, in fact it was on its second billion miles and had so many MoTs Mrs Santa had said he ought to publish them as a book. "You could bring the book out for Christmas," Mrs Santa had suggested, roaring with laughter. Santa loved his wife but sometimes he thought she was a complete nutter.

The sleigh was A-reg. The gold had faded and there were scratches here and there. The fading was caused by starlight, which had that effect on gold. It went milky; that was its way. The scratches were made by debris that had fallen off the back of other vehicles — satellites, mostly. He had been told the satellites were so that people in Britain could watch football.

When Santa took over the business from his dad you could travel right round the Earth and not meet another thing, especially on Christmas Eve. Quietest time of the year, Christmas Eve. Santa's dad had a joke about it: "We're lucky God put Christmas Eve before Christmas Day," he would say, "Makes our job a lot easier."

Santa got into the cab. He cracked the whip and the reindeer reared and pawed the ground. *They were in decent fettle. Santa* hitched them up for dry runs about once a month, to keep the blood circulating. Every six months he took them round to KwikShoe to have their feet done.

The sleigh was a Ghia version. Santa liked a bit of fake walnut, and the air conditioning you got with the Ghia was more or less essential.

Santa sighed again, deeper this time. It was December 20. Not long left, Santa thought. A Saturday, too. Santa hated shopping at the best of times, in fact he hated it so much that he had privatised the *warehouse toy business*. What with that, and his wife opening the letters, he could concentrate on the deliveries, which was the bit he enjoyed. He had always liked driving. But buying a new sleigh, that was a bind.

Still, it had to be done. Santa hitched up the team and pointed them at the out-of-town shopping centre, where Sleighs'R'Us had just opened a megastore. The great thing about this time of the year was that nobody laughed at him. In December, half the old *men in the country seemed to be* dressed up like him. He found it rather puzzling, but quite flattering.

A boy of about 13 with spots on his face and a suit that nearly fitted came up to Santa. He identified himself as the Executive Manager, New Sleigh Sales. Santa explained that he had an A-reg Ghia to trade in. "Fifty Euros" the boy said. "Against anything here.. Will you be wanting our Half-and-Half Financing Scheme, or our No-Deposit, Nothing To Pay Until 2008 Scheme, or our . . ."

"Cash," Santa said. "I only deal in cash." The boy said special arrangements would have to be made to accept cash, he would see what could be done. He went to find the Executive Finance Director, a position that had to be filled by someone over 18.

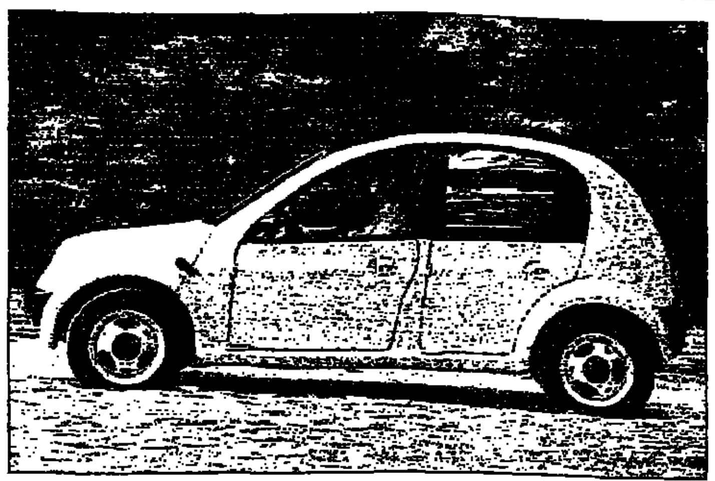
Santa cruised the showroom in a state of confusion. There seemed to be more armchairs than sleighs. Girls criss-crossed the carpet carrying filter coffee to customers. There was a bemusing variety of sleighs. The runners, for a start, came in every material from wood to titanium. Some *sleighs had hardtops, some had* soft tops and some were like his present one: no tops. Some of the power ratings sounded fantastic, though he had no idea what the figures meant (what was a watt?) until he realised they referred to the on-sleigh stereo.

The salesboy returned. Santa had chosen a red sleigh. No, he would not require the free RAC membership. No, he would not want to buy the extended three-year warranty. No, he would not want the 6,000-mile service.

"If I stopped every 6,000 miles, I would never get all the toys delivered," Santa said as he handed over the money and signed the release form for the sleigh.

Santa drove away, and the salesboy looked at the form. "Oh no," he said to a colleague, "I've sold a sleigh to some old geezer who thinks he's Santa Claus. I just hope the cash is kosher."

His colleague, who was a lot older, thought the cash was probably genuine, but he doubted that it was kosher.



Body is coloured rather than painted, and less prone to damage

CHRYSLER CCV

Engine: 800cc air-cooled V-twin, with four-speed manual transmission.
Body: Four-piece plastic body bolted to steel chassis, weighing in total 1,200lb or half the weight of a Mondeo-sized steel car.
Performance: *0-60mph in* 25 secs, top speed 70mph.
Economy: 50mpg urban.
Equipment: Not a lot: spare wheel, full-length cloth sunroof, speedo, heater, rubber catches to hold down bonnet.
Price: £4,000.

Economy drive in a plastic bottle bank 2CV

Vaughan Freeman

on a recycled idea

Dash is spartan but functional

To build the car of the future, ask your mum for 2,132 two-litre plastic drinks bottles, some superglue, and a sharp knife. Use 2,131 of the bottles to make the car, and pop the last one into the engine bay as the windscreen washer reservoir.

If it sounds like a DIY toy courtesy of *Blue Peter*, do not be fooled. Chrysler's plastic-bodied *Composite Concept Vehicle* (CCV) is a very serious project, backed by big American money, and it works.

Chrysler are more than open about the CCV's main influence and inspiration: the slightly differently initialled Citroën 2CV. The plastic car shares its spiritual ancestor's shape, tiny engine, gearstick that sprouts from the dashboard, and bare interior.

It also shares the 2CV's vast sense of fun. The CCV is a hoot to drive, with a tiny 800cc two-cylinder engine that, because the car is so lightweight, can carry four adults with ease in town traffic and, like the 2CV, struggle to make the 70mph limit.

What makes this car so significant though is that it is built from recycled plastic. At present Chrysler are using old plastic drinks bottles, ground down, mixed with glass-fibre reinforcing material and granulated. The granules become the raw material to feed the world's biggest injection-moulding *machine*.

What comes out are four enormous body panels. Like the ultimate Airfix kit, the panels are glued together to make the car's body, including the doors, and the whole lot is then fitted and glued to a steel chassis containing the engine, wheels and gearbox. Just four steel bolts ensure the body does not peel off the chassis. And that's it.

The CCV is designed for emerging Third World countries, and will fill the gap between the motor scooter and expensive Western cars. *Key to the CCV's success in* these markets, says Chrysler, is the price — around £4,000 — and the fact that plants to build it would cost a fraction of the usual price.

The four-piece thermoplastic body takes only three minutes to mould, and each car takes only 6.5 hours to build against 18 hours for Chrysler's small Neon saloon. Whereas a regular steel car contains 4,000 parts, the CCV uses only 1,100.

Because the body is plastic, colour is injected into the moulded shape during construction so there is no painting, which means there is no paintwork to damage in scrapes and bumps. Damaged bodywork can be cut out and repaired by melting replacement plastic patches into place. The *design means the car is almost 100* per cent recyclable.

Driving the CCV is a quick trip back 15 years to the days of my own bright-yellow Citroën 2CV. The main difference is that the plastic CCV feels far more solid than the steel 2CV ever did.

The dash-mounted gearstick takes some getting used to, but once on the move, the car is a joy. Even over fairly rough forest tracks that would embarrass and scratch steel-bodied saloons, the CCV, with its 8in ground clearance to cope with *Third World roads, bounds along.*

The two-cylinder engine puts out only 25bhp so performance on paper is feeble. At the wheel it is fine, because the car is so light, and the drive is entertaining without being scary.

Space and headroom, front and back, even for those well over 6ft, is cavernous because of the car's upright stance, and the simple design is refreshing. The windows just slide down and are held in position by a large knob. Door locks consist of a latch that just flips over, preventing the handle from being turned.

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Hawking a new idea for the hunt

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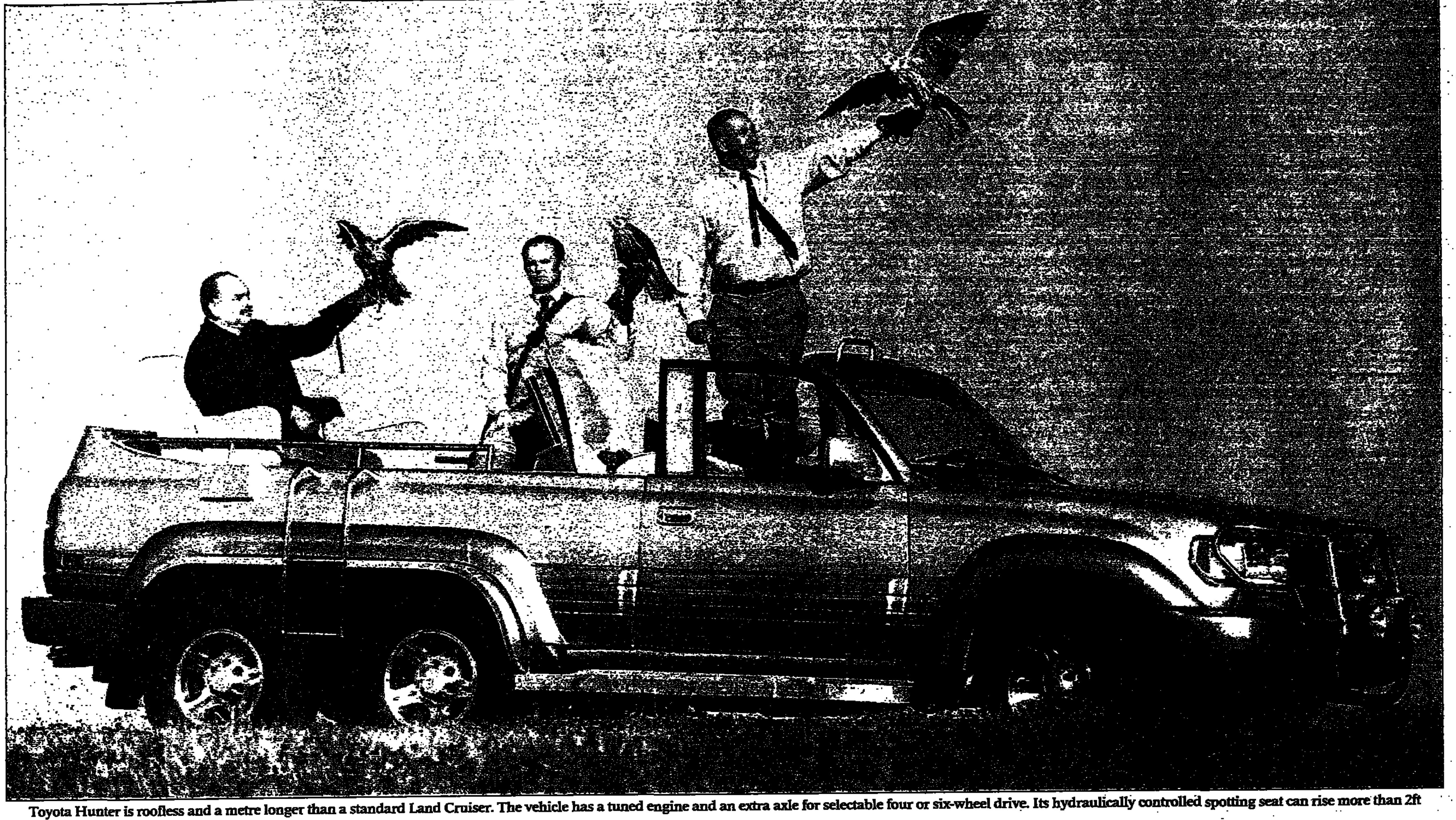


Toyota Hunter is roofless and a metre longer than a standard Land Cruiser. The vehicle has a tuned engine and an extra axle for selectable four or six-wheel drive. Its hydraulically controlled spotting seat can rise more than 2ft

Dave Selby on go-anywhere machines for storming after turkeys through the desert

This is how the other half hunt. In the far-off days of Empire, Indian Maharajahs commissioned extravagant Rolls-Royces and Daimlers upholstered with endangered species, festooned with ruby-eyed boa horns and silver plate, in their pursuit of big game.

For centuries past, in the Middle East, those who hunt for food and sport in the desert have used camels, horses, and falcons. The falcon remains, but modern sportsmen have replaced the horses and camels with the latest four-wheel-drive machines converted into ultimate hunting vehicles by specialist coach-building and engineering companies.

The prey is the houbara, or desert turkey, and you can bet that one or two won't make it as far as Christmas — at least not now this amazing six-wheel-drive Toyota Land Cruiser has left the West London workshops of Taylor Mead Engineering for its final destination in the Middle East.

Similar vehicles have been made on a variety of platforms, and the Jankel Group in Weybridge, Surrey, has just introduced a version based on the Range Rover HSE. It offers a fridge, water container and gun rack as standard, and you need a ladder to get over the side.

But before the Land Cruiser left these shores, *The Times* was given exclusive access to this remarkable machine. Customers for these types of vehicles don't have names or faces which moon eagerly at you from the pages of *Hello!* magazine. Such are the considerations of client confidentiality and security in this niche of the luxury vehicle market that you can only read about it now it has left the country.

Our encounter with the Toyota Hunter took place in a secluded field kindly provided by Viscount Cobham at his Hagley Hall estate in the West Midlands. The valuable Saker falcons were from Christopher Neal's Falconry Centre near Kidderminster.

Six months earlier, Taylor Mead Engineering in West London bought around £43,000 worth of left-hand-drive Land Cruiser — an American Lexus model with all the extra refinements and luxury garnish. Now, at a cost of approximately £100,000, it has been converted into what Taylor Mead boss Jam Fakouri hopes his wealthy client will consider to be the ultimate hunting vehicle.

It's roofless and a metre longer than a standard Land Cruiser, has an extra axle for selectable four or six-wheel drive, and a hydraulically controlled spotting seat that rises more than 2ft. To ensure its performance and reliability are exactly what his client demands, it has been tested at secret MoD facilities and put through its paces on-road, off-road, on-sand, and at a tank proving ground.

Says Iranian-born Fakouri: "With customers in this market, you get one chance — no excuses. Every time the vehicle is taken out, it will be driven as if it's the last time. It's got to stand up to the most extreme abuse and remain utterly reliable, trip after trip."

Falconer Neal explains what the shiny silver Hunter will have to endure: "Tracking a houbara could take half a day alone. The spotter sits high in the spotting seat with his Saker falcon and when the birds spots the prey that's when the chase begins. I've seen hunting vehicles thundering along over sand dunes and rocks, leaving the ground at 50-60mph."

During our demonstration ride the 4,477cc, six-cylinder engine sounds a little more purposeful than any Land Cruiser I've heard. The catalyst has been removed and the engine has been converted to run on leaded petrol, which unleashes 40-50bhp. The engine-magagement unit has also been modified to give a further power increase of 60-70bhp.

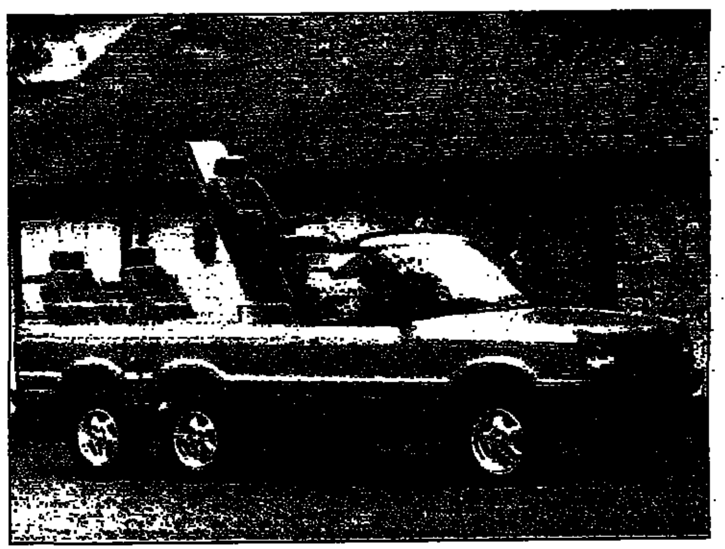
Sitting in the deep rear seats the ride feels pliant and smooth — until Fakouri pretends he's spotted his prey. In pursuit he hurls the Hunter round an imaginary roller-coaster course tighter, higher, bumpier and faster than anything at Alton Towers. He even throws in a leap for good measure as we're catapulted from our seats and only just caught by the high backs. "I kept the speed down because we haven't fitted the seat-belts and all the grab rails yet," he said.

This Hunter is more pumped up than anything on television's *Gladiators*. What was an automatic Land Cruiser now has a Toyota five-speed manual gearbox, re-engineered by Taylor Mead with toughened steel cogs, gears and chains. Fakouri explains: "There's nothing wrong with the original, but this vehicle is going to be subjected to extreme forces and we have to be absolutely certain it can cope — there's no RAC relay service in the desert."

Fakouri describes his company's approach as 'total over-engineering', and it seems to pay off. So delighted is the new owner that on his recommendation a friend has ordered one just like it — well, not quite. The friend wants his 10cm longer and turbocharged. Well, you might as well keep a little ahead of the Jones's.

TOYOTA HUNTER

Body: Lexus Land Cruiser converted by Taylor Mead Engineering. 1m longer than standard car to accommodate extra axle.
Engine: 4,477cc, 270bhp six-cylinder, 24-valve petrol.
Transmission: five-speed manual with high and low ratios. Permanent four-wheel drive, selectable six-wheel drive.
Equipment: hydraulic spotting seat with 2ft elevation, reinforced suspension and Kevlar body armour.
Price: About £43,000 for car and about £100,000 for conversion.



The Jankel Group has just created a Range Rover-based version

RANGE ROVER

Body: Range Rover HSE with roof removed and extended by 1m for third axle.
Engine: Tuned version of 4.6-litre V8, which gives 225bhp in standard form.
Transmission: Permanent four-wheel drive, switchable six-wheel drive.
Equipment: Standard suspension replaced by reinforced springs. Elevating passenger seat that lifts to level of windscreen top, falcon stand, fridge and gun rack.
Price: £49,325 for standard HSE plus £50,000-£120,000 for conversion.

Alan Copps compares two Ford and VW products that come off the same production line

Sibling rivalry among the people movers

The Ford Galaxy, Volkswagen Sharan and Seat Alhambra all come off the same production line in Portugal.

Once such unlikely combinations would have been classified under the perjorative term of "badge engineering", something invented in the 1960s when burgeoning conglomerates swallowed small companies and then abused customer loyalty by sticking hallowed symbols on second-rate products.

But in the more sophisticated climate of the 1990s there are some advantages for the buyer who takes the trouble to examine the results of such unholy automotive alliances.

Chief among these must be the enormous range of engines now available in these joint-venture vehicles. Two examples of the Ford/VW product illustrate this point.

The Sharan I tried was powered by a 1.9-litre turbodiesel that produces a very respectable 110bhp. There can be no more economical way of lugging seven people and their baggage around the countryside. Some engines feel merely adequate but this one felt indestructible, and its economy — given the size of the vehicle and its ability to cruise smoothly close to the motorway speed limit — was remarkable.

The diesel engine has suffered a bad press in recent years, but for many people its extra torque and economy still outweigh any doubts about emissions. Now there is a new generation of diesel engines that manufacturers claim are just as refined as petrol units, much cleaner than previous diesels and return astonishing fuel consumption.

The VW engine is one of the best. Even when driving a vehicle as large as the Sharan through towns, it returns more than 33mpg, rising to well over 50mpg out of town. With a torque figure of 173lb per square foot at only 1,900rpm that's an awful lot of pulling power for your pounds at the pump. Unusually for an MPV, it can also be teamed with automatic transmission.

This would be an excellent engine to choose if economy is top of your list or if you are planning to do a lot of towing or heavy load lugging.

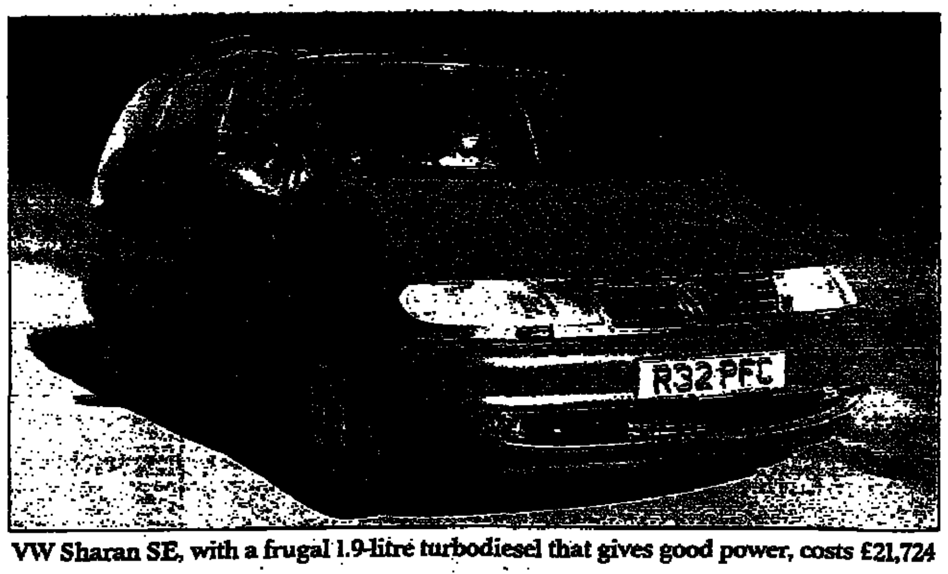
What the Sharan and the Galaxy share is the versatile interior, seven seats with the front row able to swivel right round and the back two rows easy to remove once you've mastered the technique. If you travel a lot with children the MPV has advantages. Kids love the high-riding position, there are few vehicles in which my four-year-old daughter has sat so uncomplainingly on a six-hour journey.

VW has put much thought into accessories to exploit this child-friendliness, including an integrated child seat with its own harness, thus overcoming the lack of a three-point belt in the middle seat. The smallest child seat, for babies, has a rocking position for use outside the car.

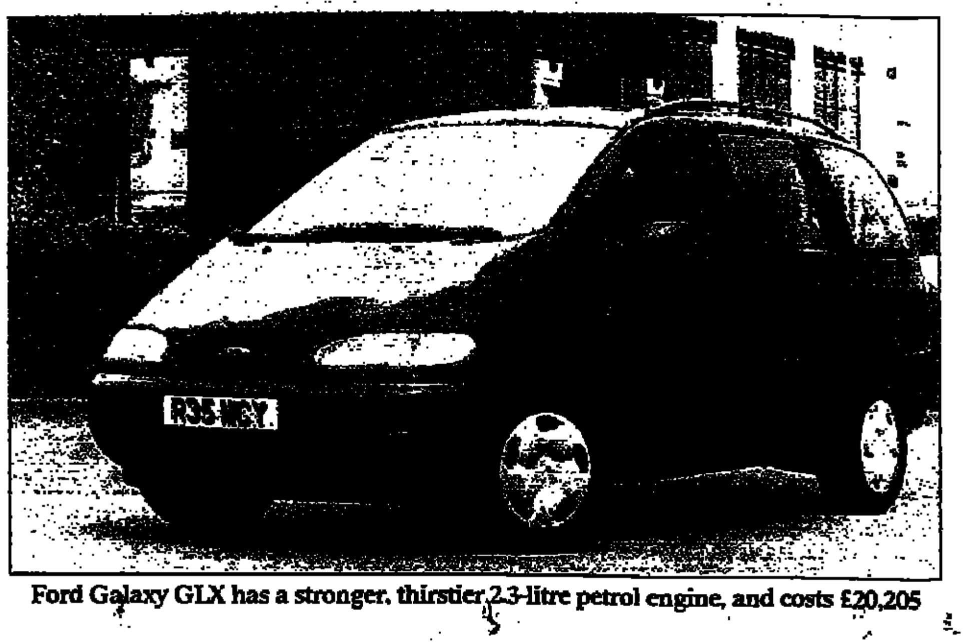
But what about the dreadful fiddly radio controls? It seems odd that a company like VW, which has obviously put a lot of thought into its latest products, perseveres with such nail-breaking devices. By contrast, the Galaxy I drove had all the audio controls on a seperate stalk on the left of the steering column, so changing the station or volume could all be done without taking hands off the wheel.

Which of these joint-venture vehicles you choose is mainly a matter of brand loyalty. You can get a Galaxy with VW's turbodiesel engine, but you can't get a Sharan with Ford's 16-valve 2.3-litre engine. This makes the Galaxy a relaxed cruiser which reaches 60mph in a fraction over ten seconds.

A combined cycle figure of 28mpg falls short of the diesel's economy but compares well with other petrol engines. But mid-range power and a 121mph top speed are impressive, and just what the Galaxy needs for long distance or motorway driving.

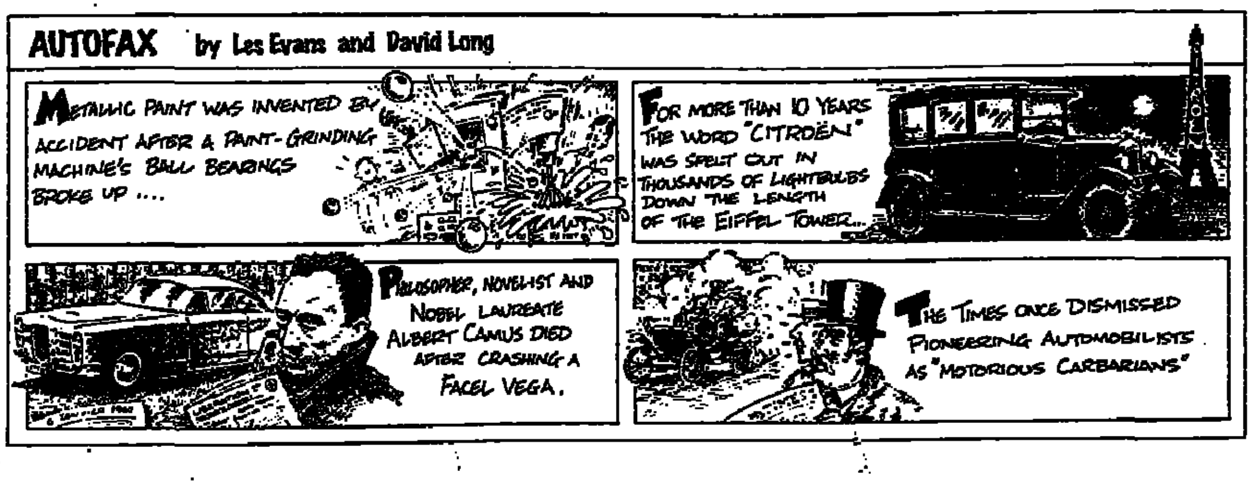


VW Sharan SE, with a frugal 1.9-litre turbodiesel that gives good power, costs £21,724



Ford Galaxy GLX has a stronger, thirstier 2.3-litre petrol engine, and costs £20,205

AUTOFAX by Les Evans and David Long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هكذا من الأصل

هكذا من الأصل

Handless pilot soars above all the odds

David Skidmore's motto is never say never, so the fact that he lost his arms in a road accident did not prevent him qualifying as a pilot, says **Stuart Birch**

David Skidmore pushed the aircraft's throttle fully forward and eased gently back on the control column as his newly bought Cessna 172 accelerated down the grass runway.

The nose lifted smoothly, and at 300ft the aircraft made a gentle climbing turn to the right. It was a textbook take-off.

"I'm working towards my instrument and night ratings," he said as the Essex countryside fell away beneath us. There may be nothing remarkable about that — but there is a great deal that is remarkable about 59-year-old David Skidmore.

He is almost certainly the only qualfied handicapped pilot in the world who has no arms. There are many physically handicapped pilots who are licensed to fly; some with only one arm or leg, at least one with no hands — and of course, Second World War ace Douglas Bader became a national hero for fighting in the Battle of Britain with no legs.

But a pilot with no arms below the elbows, and hooks for hands is something else altogether.

"I seem to be unique," says David who lost his arms in a truck accident as a 20-year-old National Serviceman in Cyprus. "I am not really a flying enthusiast, and as controlling partner of a firm of solicitors I knew little about aviation when, in 1990, one of my partners suggested flying as a new challenge."

David, who left school at 15, thrives on challenges. So he drove to Andrewsfield Aviation near Great Dunmow, Essex, met the chief flying intructor, Carol Cooper, and asked her if she thought she could teach a man with no hands or arms to fly.

"She said she would give it a go. So off we went — and from that day she never took the aircraft's controls from me."

Only seven inches of each of David's arms remain but that is just enough to allow him to wear a prosthesis (he calls it his strait-jacket with hooks) which provides him with remarkable dexterity.

He drives his Jaguar Sovereign with no special aids, plays a fine game of snooker on a quarter-size table and grips a pen in his right hook: "My handwriting is the same as it was before I lost my arms."

With a staff of 1,100, David found lack of time was his biggest problem when learning to fly, but after 96 hours' instruction from Carol Cooper, he gained his private pilot's licence on a standard Piper PA28 Cherokee.

Says Carol: "I had always treated David as I would any student pilot. He was determined to succeed — and he did."

But that was not enough for him; he still had to fly with a qualified "safety pilot" to conform to a Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) ruling. So he campaigned to persuade the CAA that he could fly alone or carry passengers.

"They said I had to fly with a safety pilot next to me and prove that my arms would not break or fall off in flight. I made videos of myself doing all manner of exercises to prove that they would not — I swung on doors and lifted weights.

"They also worried about how I would deal with emergencies. I showed them I could," he says.

"When you have no hands or arms, you learn to think ahead — from opening doors to buying train tickets. You must stay calm and cope. I demonstrated that I could deal with emergencies in the aircraft including engine failure and fire — and eventually they agreed."

David can now fly his wife, Sylvia, his family and friends in his Cessna 172. "I bought that because, unlike the Cherokee, it has electrically powered flap operation. I got my licence the difficult way on an unmodified aircraft; now that I am qualified I can make things a little easier with my own aircraft."

The 172's radio transmit button is foot-operated, like the dipswitch of an old-fashioned car, and the ignition key has an extension for easier use when checking the magnetos. He is also planning to modify the direction indicator synchronisation button which needs to be pushed and twisted. He can operate all other controls using his dextrous hooks.

All this is a remarkable triumph over adversity. His first job at 15 was in Reuters' despatch department before going to a City firm of solicitors, as a post and tea boy. Then came the Army, active service against EOKA — who fought the British for Cypriot independence — and his accident.

Six months later he returned to his previous job. The firm specialised in trade union work, including industrial injuries, but he was given only a month to prove he could still be of use.

He did so, and despite his physical disability and lack of education became a qualified solicitor. Now he has retired as the head of the firm that he had joined as a tea boy 39 years before.

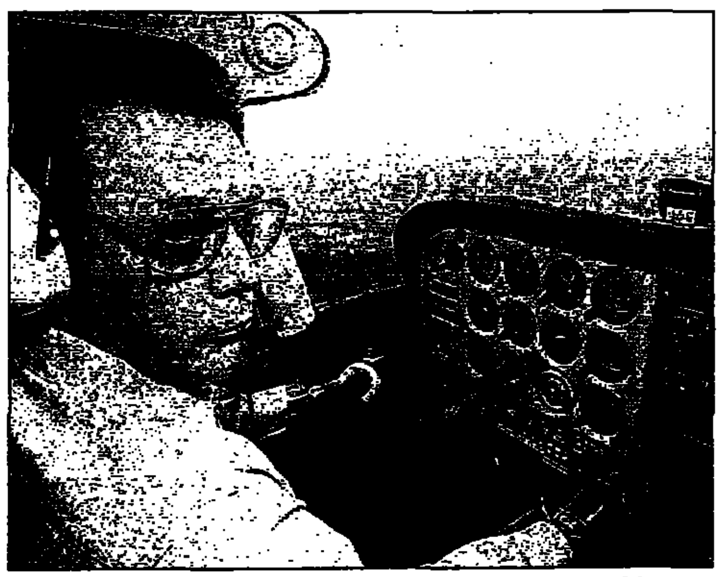
"My lack of arms has stopped me doing very little. I passed my driving test in 1960 in an ordinary Ford Anglia and today I drive an unmodified Jaguar."

Now he is a pilot. He describes his aircraft as being a collection of mechanical parts and assorted hardware formed into a cohesive whole, and he regards his artificial limbs as just a small addition to that sum total: "Why should they be more likely to go wrong than anything else?

"Anyway, operating an aircraft's controls has not proved the most difficult task I have had to master. That was fastening the collar button of my shirt."

When the CAA says he is qualified to fly on instruments and at night, David plans a new challenge: "The maxim that has seen me through, just as it has many people with physical handicaps, is: 'Never say never'.

"I rather fancy trying cross-country motorcycling . . ."



Cockpit is little changed: David's hooks can do most things

PETER TRIEVNOR

David's Cessna makes life easier with its power-assisted controls

NEWS IN BRIEF

Grand prix star's saloon showdown

■ **MOTORSPORT:** Italian Formula One driver Gianni Morbidelli has joined the Volvo S40 Racing team to compete in the British Touring Car Championship next year. He will drive as joint number one alongside the Swede Rickard Rydell who finished third in this year's competition, scoring the team's best result by winning the penultimate race in September.

The BTCC is regarded as the most competitive series of its kind, and the team, managed by TWR — which also runs the Arrows Grand Prix cars — is in its fifth season. Morbidelli, 29, is Ferrari's official test and reserve driver and has also raced grands prix for Sauber.

Of Christmas past

■ **VETERANS: A Panhard et Levassor delivered for Christmas exactly 100 years ago and described as "a superb example of early motor engineering" is one of the stars of Christie's next classic car sale, in London on February 23. The 1897 model, in black with yellow wheels, closely resembles a horseless carriage and is expected to make between £70,000 and £90,000. It is part of the Paul Moebius collection which was built up to feature the best examples of early French cars.**

Easel rider

■ **MOTORCYCLING:** New York's famous Solomon R. Guggenheim Mueseum, more usually known for its Warhols and other modern masters, is displaying more than 90 motorcycles in a BMW-backed exhibition celebrating the high points of motorcycle technology and design.

The organisers say the show, which it is hoped will come to Britain, "will include a critical exploration of themes related to motorcycle production and culture, including speed, functionality, sexual representation and outlaw culture". There should be some shiny big bikes to gawp at, too.

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97P Golf Avantgarde Convertible. Aqua Blue, blue s/seats, blue p/hood, abs, a/bags, pas, cdl, ewx4, obc, asc, a/w, 6,160mls £17,995

96P Sharan Carat VR6 Auto. Satin Silver, air conditioning, abs, a/bags, e/roof, h/l/w, h/seats, cdx1, alloy wheels, 17,960mls. £17,995

97R Sharan 2.0CL 7Seats. Satin Silver, p/steering, e/sunroof, air bags, roof rails, asc, tints, alarm, 2,460mls £17,495

97R Golf 90BHP Auto Convertible. Classic Green, cloth sports seats, power hood, twin airbags, pas, ew, cdl, e/alarm, 890mls £16,995

96P Golf GTI 8V 5dr. Storm Grey, s/seats, aircon, abs, airbag, e/roof, ewx4, cdl, edm, obc, tints, alloys, 8,300mls £15,995

97P Golf GTI 8V 3dr. Mystic Blue, s/seats, abs, aircon, e/roof, airbag, asc, ew, edm, cdl, a/w, 7,900mls £15,495

97P Passat 1.6S Windsor Blue, grey trim, abs, airbags, p/s/roof, a/s/c, e/windows, c/locking, 3rd b/light, alarm, 4,280mls . £14,995

97P Golf GTI 8V 3dr. Mystic Blue, sports seats, abs, p/steering, e/s/r, e/windows, c/locking, edm, tints, 3rd b/light, a/w, 9,160mls £14,750

96P Golf GTI 8V 5dr. Diamond Black, sports seats, abs, airbag, pas, e/s/roof, ewx4, obc, cdl, edm, tints, alloys, 12,100mls .. £14,750

94M Golf GTI 8v 5dr. Dragon Green, sports seats, abs, air bag, p/steering, e/windows x4, c/locking, edm, tints, a/w, 25,300mls £11,995

94M Golf GL Auto Estate. Indian Red, beaver velour, abs, pas, e/s/roof, e/windows x4, edm, central locking, tints, roof rails, 15,400mls £10,995

95M Golf 1.8CL Estate. Maritime Blue, anthracite trim, p/steering, c/locking, tints, remote alarm, roof rails, 26,380mls £9,995

97P Polo 1.0L 3dr. Diamond Black, grey cloth trim, 5 speed gearbox, a/s/column, electric door mirrors, immobiliser. 14,680mls £7,995

Many More Available

0171 737 7133
0171 730 2131

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
AIB GOVETT UNIT TRUST LTD				
0171 378 7979 Dealing 0171 407 7869				
Protected Funds				
UK Safeguard	137.31	144.98	- 3.65	..
Do NAV to Mar 20	134.54	134.54	- 2.29	
UK Equity Safeguard	108.01	115.38	- 1.44	2.47
Do NAV to Sep 19	106.93	106.95		
Cash	956.57	961.35	+ 1.00	5.75
UK Growth Funds				
UK Equity Gen	368.70	392.20	+ 4.40	1.72
UK Small Cos	78.52	84.04	+ 0.52	0.49
FTSE 250 Index	96.80	103.52	- 1.54	2.11
Geared UK Index	2267.64	2385.88	- 8.00	5.75
Income Funds				
Corp Bd	81.58	84.46	+ 0.16	
Monthly Inc	42.08	44.95†	+ 0.23	8.72
International Funds				
American Gen	284.50	301.80	+ 0.30	
American Strat	227.99	240.62	- 10.26	
JC US Index	2239.56	2368.71	- 64.00	4.00
European Gen	321.90	340.70	+ 2.70	
European Strat	137.29	146.83	- 0.74	
Japan Gen	100.90	107.00	- 0.10	
Asia Pacific	66.17	70.57	- 0.53	1.08
Pacific Strat	104.81	112.08	- 1.42	
Greater China	196.95	210.64	- 7.83	
Latin America	103.56	110.77†	+ 3.36	
Intl Growth	160.95	172.13	- 2.66	.
Balanced Exempt	154.50	160.00		
Global Strategy	45.53	48.69	- 1.30	
AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS				
01203 553 231				
General Acc	831.90	885.00	+ 1.30	2.57
General Inc	678.10	721.30	+ 1.00	2.57
UK Growth Acc	575.10	611.80	+ 0.90	2.54
UK Growth Inc	363.50	386.60	+ 0.40	2.54
Higher Inc Acc #	1059.00	1126.00	- 2.00	4.85
Higher Inc Inc #	543.60	578.20	- 1.10	4.85
Gilts/Fxd Int Acc	232.50	246.60		5.61
Gilts/Fxd Int Inc	96.83	102.30	+ 0.10	5.61
Nth America	401.70	427.30	- 9.40	
Europe	435.30	463.00	- 2.80	0.61
Brit Excell	114.40	121.60	+ 0.10	2.29
Brit Frederik Acc	144.50	153.70	- 0.60	4.53
Brit Frederik Inc	92.70	98.61	- 0.41	4.53
Global Opps	106.60	113.40	- 1.10	0.31
Balanced Acc	71.65	76.44	- 0.25	2.41
Balanced Inc	65.74	69.93	- 0.24	2.41
Japan Acc	32.82	34.91	- 0.34	
Pac Basin Acc	272.90	290.30	- 3.20	2.30
ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS				
0345 717 373				
Gilts & Fixed Int	142.00	151.70†	+ 0.40	5.89
High Inc Equity	218.90	234.10	- 0.80	4.31
Worldwide Bond	270.90	287.30†	+ 0.60	3.49
American Growth	511.50	546.10	- 2.90	0.31
Asian Pacific	212.70	227.50	- 7.60	0.50
Assets & Earnings	334.80	358.10†	- 3.10	2.85
Euro Capital Acc	237.60	254.10	+ 0.40	0.78
Extra Inc	42.23	44.92†	- 0.37	9.36
General	311.50	331.40	- 2.10	2.96
Global Opps	73.96	79.68	- 0.25	0.41
Japan	70.90	75.33	1.01	
Managed Inc	51.57	54.65†	- 0.21	4.10
Mastertrust	180.60	193.30	- 0.60	1.15
US Emerging Cos	209.40	224.00	- 2.00	
Ethical	89.63	94.29	- 0.77	1.94
International	136.90	145.60	- 0.10	0.00
Dividend & Growth	81.06	86.73	- 0.26	4.05
Global Gwth & Sec	78.11	83.51	+ 0.25	2.42
Latin America	76.81	81.71	+ 0.79	0.82
Capital Reserve	153.80	153.80	+ 0.40	4.54
ABBEY NATIONAL UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0141 275 8500				
H&P UK Growth	110.80	117.80		1.95
Equity Income #	156.30	166.20		3.91
Extra Income #	300.90	319.70	+ 0.20	4.61
Smaller Cos	101.00	107.40	- 0.40	2.14
International	125.30	133.20†	- 0.80	2.32
ABERDEEN UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0800 833 580				
American	75.99	78.98	- 1.85	
Emerging Mkts	57.35	59.74	- 0.13	0.11
European	163.79	170.35	- 2.28	
Extra Income #	57.48	60.50†	- 0.14	4.64
Far East Emg Eco	74.29	77.85	- 0.63	1.09
Fixed Interest #	28.08	29.19†	+ 0.02	7.92
Fund Inv Tst #	184.21	193.39	+ 3.31	9.08
Japan	138.11	143.48	+ 0.87	.
Latin American	65.88	69.67	+ 0.17	
Pacific	53.97	56.65	- 0.33	0.21
Property	91.98	96.57	+ 0.14	1.16
UK Emerging Cos	71.96	77.75	+ 0.45	0.87
UK Growth	68.50	71.76	+ 0.83	1.14
Aber World Port #	86.66	91.21†	+ 0.78	2.58
Ethical	84.68	88.08†	+ 0.11	0.91
Aberdeen Gilt Inc #	50.64	50.64†	+ 0.10	7.12
ABERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0131 220 0733				
UK Small Cos	2497.00	2500.00	- 6.00	
AIRWAYS UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0171 256 5868				
Resdl Property #	111.20	118.20	+ 0.30	4.80
ALLCHURCHES INV MGMT SVS LTD				
01452 305 958				
Amity Income	106.68	113.19	- 0.49	1.76
Income Builder Inc	95.21	101.29†	+ 0.08	3.20
B & C E UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
01293 526 911				
Cracold Gd Pens	138.90	144.30	+ 5.30	
Founder Pprd Pens	81.38	84.55	+ 2.59	
BAILLIE GIFFORD & CO LTD				
0131 222 4242				
American Sm Cos	438.30	466.30	- 3.40	
Bond	124.50	130.80	+ 0.10	6.43
Brit Smlr Cos	111.50	118.70	- 1.40	1.90
Europe	335.90	356.90†	- 7.20	
Euro Smlr Cos	121.00	129.30†	- 0.60	0.31
High Income #	68.60	72.98†	+ 0.38	5.51
Income	407.20	433.20†	+ 3.70	4.03
Japan	282.10	295.20	- 7.30	.
Latin American	104.20	110.80	+ 2.50	
Pacific	75.56	80.38†	- 1.20	1.23
UK Smlr Cos	62.46	66.45	- 0.49	1.29
Japanese Sm Cos	435.30	449.00	- 7.60	
Mngd Fd	235.20	249.70	- 0.10	2.48
BANK OF IRELAND FUND MGRS LTD				
0171 489 8673				
Brit & Oseas	430.70	456.40	+ 3.30	0.78
Capital Gwth	163.90	173.30	+ 3.90	2.48
Wwide Opps	236.70	250.30	+ 1.40	0.89
BARCLAYS FUNDS LTD				
Customer Help Desk 0181 522 4000				
Income Funds				
Cash	101.20	101.20	+ 0.10	6.68
Cash Acc	131.30	131.30	+ 0.30	6.68
Income #	700.70	747.40	- 2.90	4.03
Income Builder #	80.94	86.20	- 0.13	4.64
Balanced Funds				
Exempt	104.40	111.10	+ 0.10	2.24
500	517.30	556.30	- 1.90	2.12
General	401.90	427.60	+ 1.70	1.75
Property	264.60	283.90†	+ 0.60	5.60
Trustee	279.50	297.40†	- 1.20	1.70
Growth Funds - UK				
Capital	178.60	191.30	+ 0.70	1.66
FTSE 100	129.20	137.20†	- 0.10	1.81
Growth Acc	561.30	597.10	+ 0.10	1.53
Smaller Cos	60.74	64.79	- 0.13	2.41
Smaller Cos Acc	73.16	78.04	- 0.15	2.41
Growth Funds - Overseas				
America	229.00	242.10†	- 0.30	0.04
American Growth	160.20	169.80	+ 0.40	
Japan	90.41	95.95	- 1.60	
Japan Acc	91.45	96.65	- 1.62	
Japan Spec Sits	40.87	43.30	- 0.89	
Worldwide	209.30	222.20	- 0.30	0.98
Barclays Investment Portfolios				
Managed Income	49.20	50.87	+ 0.03	7.10
Mgd Gwth & Inc #	47.03	49.93	+ 0.06	4.50
Managed Growth	46.18	49.37		0.50
BARING FUND MANAGERS LTD				
0171 214 1004				
American Growth	177.40	187.40	- 1.80	.
Amer Smllr Cos	153.40	163.00	- 4.80	
Eastern	167.20	179.20	- 3.60	0.20
Equity Income #	123.30	131.40	+ 0.20	4.20
European Growth	470.70	500.60	- 5.60	0.80
Europe	415.00	443.40†	- 3.00	0.80
German Growth	102.00	108.00	- 1.50	0.50
Global Bond	74.40	78.23	- 0.27	4.80
Global Growth	167.70	178.20†	- 0.60	0.40
Japan Growth	102.40	108.50	- 5.00	
Japan Search	76.79	81.20	- 1.29	
Korea Trust	20.17	22.02	- 3.55	
Portfolio	171.60	182.50	- 1.20	2.00
-do- Accum	331.30	352.50	- 2.40	2.00
UK Growth	131.50	140.40	- 1.30	1.80
UK Smaller Cos	123.91	131.23	+ 1.60	1.00
Select Managers	93.15	99.54	- 0.23	1.00
BLACKSTONE FRANKS UT MGRS LTD				
0171 250 3300				
Intl Gwth Port Inc	101.10	107.50	+ 1.10	.
Special Opps Inc	59.99	63.82	+ 2.02	
BRITANNIA FUND MGRS LTD				
0141 223 6020				
Balanced Growth	190.59	183.11	+ 2.53	1.11
-do- Accum	213.62	222.52	+ 3.00	1.11
Smaller Cos	182.44	190.04†	+ 0.54	0.47
Higher Yield #	69.23	72.11	+ 0.12	2.56
American Gth Inc	131.14	136.62	+ 0.12	
European Growth	191.53	199.51	- 0.42	
-do- Accum	195.62	203.77	- 0.44	
Mixed Pfolio Inc	57.96	60.38	- 0.14	1.22
-do- Accum	60.75	63.28	- 0.15	1.22
Intl Spec Opps	182.68	190.29	+ 0.10	
Pacific Gth	105.57	109.97	- 1.26	0.01
UK General #	120.16	125.17†	- 1.45	2.25
-do- Accum #	134.05	139.63	+ 0.20	2.83
Japan	35.42	37.95	- 0.44	
Gilt & Fixed Int #	109.19	113.15†	- 0.09	7.31
BURRAGE UNIT TST MGMT LTD				
0171 480 7216				
Short Dated Gilt	66.75	67.69	- 0.17	6.17
CIS UNIT MANAGERS LTD				
0161 837 5060				
Environ	210.30	221.40†	- 1.20	1.63
UK Growth	264.30	278.20	+ 0.90	1.56
UK Income	186.80	196.70	+ 0.90	3.55
CANADA LIFE MGMT (UK) LTD				
01707 622 106				
Cap Gen Dist	269.20	284.30	- 0.90	1.20
-do- Income Dist	153.70	162.96		3.10
-do- Accum	518.60	547.70	- 0.10	3.10
Gilt & Fxd Int	43.64	46.66	+ 0.08	4.99
Growth Units	319.60	341.30	+ 0.30	1.65
Bond	133.50	139.40	+ 0.20	5.70
Intl Growth	221.50	235.60	- 2.70	0.31
North American	312.50	332.70	- 2.00	
Far East	184.30	197.10	- 0.20	1.08
UK Smaller Cos	254.40	272.10	- 0.50	1.06
European	110.10	117.20	- 1.40	0.55
Japanese Growth	28.07	29.62	- 0.35	
High Income	262.30	288.50		2.79
CAPEL-CURE MYERS UT MGMT LTD				
0161 831 7433 Enq 0161 831 7433 Dlg 0161 831 7455				
American & Gen	234.30	307.30	+ 1.00	
European Inc	118.20	123.40	- 2.20	0.16
Smaller Cos (4-7)	168.90	175.60	- 0.60	1.97
Growth	672.40	715.40	- 2.30	1.85
Income & Growth #	575.10	611.90	- 0.50	4.16
-do- Accum #	338.40	355.80	- 0.70	4.16
Japan & Gen	45.59	48.61	- 1.44	
Hallmark Gwth	1440.00	1500.00	- 2.00	1.65
-do- Accum	1807.00	1880.00	- 3.00	1.55
Special Sits	156.20	166.30	+ 0.30	1.61
High Yield	1839.20	1936.00†	- 1.00	3.73
CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
0171 606 0708				
Cazenove Portfolio	113.22	120.42	- 0.29	2.30
American Portfolio	155.76	165.13†	- 5.76	0.70
European Portfolio	156.58	166.79	- 4.11	0.37
High Income	55.47	58.33	+ 0.05	6.54
Japanese Portfolio	42.40	43.95†	- 1.15	
Pacific Portfolio	106.77	114.81†	- 2.60	1.03
UK Equity	112.83	119.59	- 0.12	2.98
UK Equity & Bd	66.63	70.82	+ 0.09	4.99
UK Smlr Cos	54.53	58.33	+ 0.48	1.62
CBF CHURCH OF ENGLAND FUNDS				
0171 588 1815				
Inv Fd Inc	922.94	936.38	- 10.64	3.76
Inv Fd Acc	954.51	968.93	- 11.01	
Fxd Int Sec Inc	154.74	164.80	+ 2.16	6.68
Fxd Int Sec Acc	175.49	178.19	+ 2.22	

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
COIF CHARITY FUNDS				
0171 588 1815				
Investment Inc	914.45	928.27	+ 20.66	3.75
Investment Acc	4394.54	4460.96	+ 99.29	
Fixed Int Inc	133.68	134.20		8.64
Fixed Int Acc	267.13	268.21	+ 1.62	8.59
CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD				
0171 556 8800				
Beckman Intl	98.33	103.39	+ 1.37	5.98
Beck Bio-Tech	39.03	42.19†	- 1.00	..
Acorn Ethical Tst	220.41	234.48†	+ 6.77	0.52
City Fin Assets	86.24	90.66	- 1.59	2.83
City Fin Intl	86.92	92.36	+ 0.31	0.86
Friars Hse Cap	366.06	389.45	- 1.70	1.61
Buckley Wide Gth	141.69	150.40	- 1.69	
Shaw Uplands	82.86	84.72†	- 0.44	3.54
CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0171 711 0771 Admin: 01277 227 300				
Emerging Markets	47.23	50.11	+ 0.10	...
CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD				
0345 772 233				
American Gwth	95.34	101.32	- 1.29	..
Dragon Growth	45.33	48.48	- 0.73	1.60
Equity High Inc	113.44	120.04†	+ 0.30	3.17
-do- Accum	171.23	181.19	+ 0.31	3.17
Extra Income Inc	28.98	30.51	+ 0.02	6.07
Extra Income Acc	33.69	35.47	+ 0.03	6.07
European Gwth	78.90	83.49	- 0.61	0.15
Eastgrowth	34.46	36.85	- 0.42	..
General Equity	131.59	138.88	- 2.09	2.32
Japan Growth	31.41	33.41	- 0.37	..
Pedigree Gwth	79.85	84.49	+ 0.11	1.47
Ped Sm Cos Inc	41.75	44.18	+ 0.03	1.35
-do- Accum	44.95	47.57	+ 0.04	1.35
Retirement Inc #	33.72	35.57	+ 0.06	4.98
Special Sits	54.03	58.10	- 0.50	2.44
UK & Overseas	65.58	69.40	+ 0.45	0.52
COLONIAL UNIT TRUSTS (UK) LTD				
01634 898 000				
Balanced	80.50	83.85	- 0.51	3.57
Capital	98.62	102.72	- 0.41	1.94
High Income	56.60	58.95†	+ 0.04	6.40
Top 50	72.68	75.70	+ 0.26	1.93
COMMERCIAL UNION TRUST MGRS LTD				
0181 686 9818				
PRESTIGE PORTFOLIO (PPT FUNDS)				
Income Funds				
Equity Inc	227.49	236.99	+ 0.13	4.28
Long Gilt	50.97	53.06	- 0.07	4.87
Monthly Inc Plus	58.96	61.42	+ 0.08	7.29
Preference Share	57.98	60.40	+ 1.16	8.45
Balanced Funds				
High Yield	164.41	171.28	+ 0.17	5.83
Managed Fund	84.25	87.87	+ 0.61	2.41
UK Growth Funds				
Smaller Cos	51.74	53.90	+ 0.17	1.58
-do- Accum	61.87	64.45	+ 0.19	1.58
UK & General	122.04	127.14	+ 0.98	2.13
-do- Accum	163.55	170.38	+ 1.31	2.13
UK Growth	242.10	252.21	+ 0.39	1.56
International Growth Funds				
Europe Growth	260.99	271.89	- 1.07	0.49
Far Eastern Gth	92.73	96.67	- 1.08	0.29
Global Bond	71.31	74.38	- 0.32	5.15
Japan Growth	82.93	86.39	- 1.09	
North Amer Gth	298.82	311.30	- 3.78	
Oriental Growth	56.11	58.45	- 0.66	0.84
Worldwide Growth	78.37	81.64	- 0.58	0.32
OTHER CU TRUSTS (NON PPT FUNDS)				
Deposit Fund	92.51	92.51	+ 0.10	6.79
Homemaker Fund	99.72	106.10	+ 0.07	2.03
Quilter Fund	171.71	182.67	- 0.21	1.73
CONSISTENT UNIT TST MGMT CO LTD				
0171 407 5966				
Consistent UT	42.20	45.02	+ 0.53	2.75
COONE (HENRY) INV FUNDS LTD				
0800 526 358				
Growth	194.90	207.30†	+ 1.10	2.22
Income	87.53	93.12	+ 0.11	3.72
European Growth	89.87	95.43	- 0.95	0.30
Recovery	206.60	219.80	+ 0.90	1.91
CO-OP PENSION FDS UT MGRS LTD				
0171 283 9494				
Equity Dist	1205.70	1221.80†	+ 51.80	3.03
CREDIT SUISSE ASSET MGMT FDS (UK) LTD				
01277 690 370				
European Inc	81.19	86.13	- 0.36	0.37
Fellowship Tst	120.70	128.40	+ 0.10	1.14
Income #	333.70	354.90	+ 0.70	3.91
-do- Accum #	922.80	981.60	+ 2.10	
Smaller Cos	234.60	249.50†	- 1.40	0.74
-do- Accum	294.10	312.80	- 0.70	
Gilt Portfolio	116.60	124.00	+ 0.10	1.27
Mthly Inc Port #	99.66	105.70	+ 0.30	3.95
DIMENSIONAL TST MGMT LTD				
0171 470 1834				
Global Sm Cos	1776.40	1797.40	- 11.70	0.57
UK Small Cos	2307.50	2411.00	- 9.60	2.85
DISCRETIONARY UNIT FUND MGRS				
0171 377 8819				
Disc Inc	253.10	260.90	- 0.20	.
DRESDNER RCM FUNDS (UK) LTD				
Dealers 0171 956 7354 Client Helpline 0800 317573				
Formerly KBUT				
Amer Smllr Cos	188.10	200.10	- 2.60	..
Asian Growth	180.70	192.20†	- 0.10	0.30
Bond Income	108.10	112.20†	+ 0.20	7.30
European	225.60	240.00	- 1.80	0.50
European Prv	120.40	128.00	- 0.40	2.80
European Special	155.70	165.60	- 5.60	
Gilt Yield	127.90	134.90†	+ 0.20	6.30
Global Eqty Inc	132.80	141.00	- 0.50	1.60
High Yield	198.40	208.80†	+ 0.50	4.50
Japan	264.70	281.50	- 0.30	.
Japanese Special	121.10	128.80	- 3.90	.
Money Market	102.60	102.60†	+ 0.09	6.00
North American	136.20	144.70	- 1.30	
Smaller Cos	159.00	169.10	- 0.90	1.00
Smllr Cos Div	69.32	73.74		3.80
Tomorrows Co Ex	1145.00	1162.00	+ 2.00	0.10
UK Equity Growth	59.51	63.30	- 1.68	1.10
UK Index Inc	413.30	415.30	+ 2.90	2.90
Birchgen Tst	116.80	125.00†		1.70
Global Income	245.10	260.70	- 2.20	3.10
Formerly Thornton				
European	389.70	406.80	- 5.10	0.80
Europe Bd	39.06	40.61	- 0.10	6.50
Exempt	818.10	853.70	- 1.80	2.70
Global Em Mkts	73.39	76.78	+ 1.38	0.60
Japan Tst	59.02	61.80	- 1.24	
Little Dragons	69.59	72.86	- 1.63	
Nth Amer Gwth	384.10	402.10	- 3.80	0.40
Oriental Income #	37.88	39.66	- 1.36	4.70
Preference	149.60	156.60	+ 0.40	7.60
Tiger	188.40	197.10	- 3.00	
UK Blue Chip	101.30	106.00	- 0.70	1.40
UK Growth	790.00	827.20	- 7.20	0.80
UK High Yield #	141.50	148.10	- 0.50	4.70
UK Mid-Cap	378.30	396.00	+ 1.20	1.50
UK Smlr Cos Div #	90.19	94.43	- 0.97	5.80
UK Smlr Cos	138.40	144.80	+ 0.40	0.70
EDINBURGH UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0345 090 526				
Convertibles #	24.70	26.24†	+ 0.10	5.31
Enterprise	121.10	128.40†	+ 0.70	1.95
Equity Income #	170.80	181.50†	+ 0.20	3.47
European	75.17	79.54	- 0.34	
Financial	70.75	75.17	- 0.27	1.30
Growth & Inc #	351.90	373.90	+ 0.20	2.31
High Dist #	219.30	233.00†	+ 0.10	3.60
International	428.30	455.00	+ 0.50	0.22
Intl Cap Inc	115.50	122.30	- 0.60	2.15
Latin American	35.22	37.42	+ 0.72	
Mgd Gwth Port	97.72	102.90	- 0.40	0.68
Pacific	63.54	67.51	- 1.48	
Pref High Inc	26.12	27.36	- 0.46	6.50
Tokyo	139.60	147.60	- 3.20	
UK Smaller Cos	254.30	270.20	+ 2.70	1.12
Japan Sm Cos	223.30	236.40	- 5.00	
Nth Amer	518.40	548.40	- 12.50	0.52
UK Inc & Gth	318.00	338.80	- 0.90	2.16
ELY PLACE UNIT MGRS LTD				
0171 242 0242				
BR Director Ofs	127.12	135.38	- 1.60	0.95
Growth Acc	316.40	336.60		0.30
Income	643.86	687.85	+ 7.50	5.41
ENDURANCE FUND MGMT LTD				
0171 373 7281				
Endurance Fd	248.50	264.40	+ 4.00	1.07
EQUITABLE UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
01296 431 480				
European	111.12	116.97	- 1.01	1.50
Ethical Tst	53.71	56.54	- 0.34	1.79
Far Eastern	209.48	220.51	- 4.51	2.06
High Income	170.91	179.90†	- 0.27	4.00
UK Index Trckng	65.28	68.72	- 0.01	2.39
Intl Growth	132.46	139.43	- 2.15	1.29
North American	186.45	196.26	- 4.99	1.43
Pelican	175.03	184.24	- 0.74	2.44
Smaller Cos	73.84	77.73†	- 0.11	2.19
Special Sits	90.49	95.25	- 0.36	2.73
Fd of Inv Tsts	232.09	244.30	- 0.30	1.63
EXETER FUND MANAGERS LTD				
01392 412 144				
Capital Growth	136.50	144.80	+ 3.05	
Fd of Inv Tsts	58.55	62.12	+ 0.43	0.47
High Income #	44.36	47.04	+ 0.38	10.63
Asian & Cl Opps	51.32	55.72	+ 0.56	
Zero Preference	48.76	51.74†	- 0.15	
FAMILY INVESTMENT MGMT LTD				
01273 724 570				
Family Asset Tst	118.10	125.60		2.12
United Charities	339.10	360.70		2.57
FIDELITY INVESTMENT SERVS LTD				
Callfree: Private Clients 0800 414 161				
Cash Fund				
Cash Fund	100.00	100.00	.	6.87
Bond Funds				
Intl Bond	25.98	26.54	- 0.07	5.43
Strategic Inc	30.12	31.48†	- 0.05	5.40
Income Funds				
High Income	31.32	32.86†	- 0.02	4.78
Income Plus	168.70	179.40†	- 0.30	3.38
European Income	60.69	64.49	- 0.71	1.74
Moneybuilder Gwth	39.03	39.31	+ 0.10	2.41
Equity Funds				
ASEAN	28.07	29.36	+ 0.04	
American	410.10	435.30	- 3.00	
Amer Spec Sits	215.30	229.50	- 6.40	
Japan Smaller Cos	16.55	17.54	- 0.26	..
European	296.00	304.10	- 3.40	0.35
European Opps	106.00	112.70	- 0.40	0.50
Global Pfra	38.29	40.71	+ 0.06	0.40
UK Growth	152.40	162.10	+ 0.50	1.29
Growth & Inc	221.60	235.70	+ 0.50	2.54
Intl PEP	58.10	61.78	- 0.18	1.12
Japan Spec Sits	54.57	57.87	- 0.71	
Japan	142.50	152.00	- 3.10	
Managed Intl	414.10	440.00	- 3.40	0.60
Moneybuilder Pfra	74.51	75.04	- 0.98	0.35
Recovery	68.44	72.77	- 2.32	1.83
South E Asia	144.60	153.90	- 2.40	1.35
Special Sits	904.30	961.60	- 0.30	1.19
Specialist Funds				
Cash Accum Units	125.65	125.65	+ 0.12	6.80
FLEMING PRIVATE FUND MGMT LTD				
0171 814 2700				
Balanced #	165.40	167.70	- 0.70	1.66
Fnsbury Prf Inc #	110.40	111.30†		5.77
Cap Pfolio	184.30	186.40†	- 1.30	
General Opps	165.40	167.60	+ 1.70	2.22
Growth Inc	46.79	46.72†	- 0.02	1.18
Private Portfolio	562.50	562.50	- 1.70	0.76
FOREIGN & COLONIAL UNIT MGT				
Dlg 01277 690 336 Admin/Val 01277 690 350				
Euro Smllr Cos	167.30	177.80	+ 0.90	..
High Income	22.51	23.68†	- 0.07	9.50
Japan Smlr Cos	10.63	11.62	- 0.15	
US Smaller Cos	527.20	562.50	+ 5.70	.
FRAMLINGTON UNIT MGMT LTD				
Enq 0171 330 6500 Dealing 0345 775511				
American Growth	100.30	106.40	- 0.20	
-do- Accum	100.30	106.40	- 0.20	
Amer Smlr Cos	723.90	771.20	- 17.30	
-do- Accum	739.50	787.90	- 17.60	
Capital Tst	410.90	437.10	- 1.20	1.26
-do- Accum	611.70	650.70	- 1.90	1.25
Conti Smllr Cos	65.31	69.74	- 0.64	1.03
-do- Accum	70.08	74.83	- 0.68	1.03
Convertible	145.10	154.40†	- 6.10	5.39
-do- Accum	337.40	358.90†	- 5.20	5.37
Emerging Markets	61.30	65.79†	+ 1.35	0.54
-do- Accum	61.72	65.94†	+ 1.36	0.54
European	134.70	155.60	- 2.00	
-do- Accum	196.40	209.00	- 2.10	
Extra Income	470.20	500.20	- 1.20	3.99

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
-do- Accum	775.60	825.10	- 1.90	3.39
Financial	237.00	252.10	+ 0.90	0.94
-do- Accum	253.70	269.90	+ 0.70	0.94
Gilt Trust	64.00	65.99	+ 0.13	7.04
-do- Accum	105.40	108.60	+ 0.20	7.04
Health Fund Inc	270.10	287.30†	- 5.80	.
-do- Accum	270.10	287.30†	- 5.80	
Income & Growth	286.30	303.30†	- 0.10	3.54
-do- Accum	443.50	471.80†	- 0.30	3.54
Intl Growth	439.20	467.70	- 4.30	
-do- Accum	487.70	519.30	- 4.60	.
Japan & Gen	114.70	121.80	- 3.60	.
-do- Accum	115.90	122.90	- 3.70	
Monthly Inc #	235.80	250.80†	+ 0.10	3.98
-do- Accum #	245.80	261.50†	+ 0.10	3.98
Managed Port Inc	130.90	137.80	- 0.60	1.30
-do- Accum	144.00	151.60	- 0.70	1.30
Quarterly Income #	63.44	67.77†	- 0.05	5.17
-do- Accum #	76.68	82.13†	- 0.04	5.17
Recovery	291.20	311.40	- 4.39	
-do- Accum	343.70	367.60	- 5.00	
UK Growth	75.31	80.12	- 0.14	1.79
-do- Accum	83.21	88.52	- 0.16	1.79
FRIENDS PROVIDENT UNIT TRUSTS				
Dealing 01722 715835 Enq 01722 715834				
FP American	78.68	83.65	- 0.35	
FP Am Smllr Cos	215.80	230.10	- 3.50	
FP Asian Growth	169.20	180.40	- 3.50	
FP Australian	406.30	433.30	+ 2.20	
FP Equity Dist	563.50	590.60†	+ 1.40	1.89
-do- Accum	1264.00	1348.00	+ 3.30	1.89
FP Euro Gth	365.90	391.20	- 0.10	
-do- Accum	402.00	428.70	- 0.10	
FP Intl Bond	57.44	60.78	+ 0.12	4.03
FP Intl Gth Dist	42.26	45.07†	- 0.06	0.04
-do- Accum	62.31	66.46	- 0.05	0.04
FP Pac Basin Acc	166.20	177.30	- 2.10	0.24
FP Income #	70.68	75.39†	+ 0.24	4.29
-do- Accum #	262.70	280.20	+ 0.90	4.28
FP Jap Smllr Cos	157.30	167.70	- 3.50	.
FP Monthly Dist #	86.61	92.38†	+ 0.19	4.72
FP Stg Deposit	101.10	101.10	+ 0.10	6.39
FP Tokyo	62.65	66.82	- 0.88	
FP UK Focus	52.08	55.55	+ 0.02	1.41
FP UK Growth	248.10	262.57	+ 0.40	1.47
-do- Accum	506.80	540.50	+ 0.70	1.47
Stewardship Dist	477.00	508.80†	- 0.60	1.38
-do- Accum	610.90	651.60	- 0.80	1.38
Stwdshp Inc Dist #	77.80	82.92†	- 0.38	5.20
-do- Accum #	113.40	120.90	- 0.40	5.20
N Am Stshp Dist	155.50	165.80	- 0.40	
-do- Accum	167.40	178.50	- 0.40	
FP Exempt Trust				
Intl Ethical In #	124.40	125.00†	- 0.20	2.61
Intl Ethical Ac #	127.50	128.10	- 0.20	2.61
FP Managed Portfolio Service				
Capital Gwth Acc	145.90	155.20†	+ 1.70	0.54
Open Cap Gth Acc	143.60	152.70	+ 1.00	0.16
Cap Gth Inc Inc #	133.10	141.50	+ 1.70	2.58
Cap Gth Inc Acc #	144.10	153.20	+ 1.80	2.58
Opn Cp Gth Ic Ic #	137.50	146.20	+ 1.00	3.57
Opn Cp Gth Ic Ac #	150.90	160.50	+ 1.10	3.57
GA UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0345 581 108/7				
CANDA	366.20	385.50†	+ 3.40	1.81
Cash	49.57	50.32†	+ 0.08	5.63
Income Portfolio	83.29	87.67†	+ 0.62	2.31
GA Equity Gth	273.80	291.30	+ 1.00	1.27
GA European Gth	165.80	174.90	+ 1.60	0.07
GA Japan Gth	75.18	79.87	- 0.16	
GA Nth Amer Gth	293.60	311.10	+ 0.50	0.04
GA Intl Gth	134.80	143.30	+ 0.40	
GT GLOBAL FUND MGMT LTD				
Inv 0800 212274 Dealing 0171 626 9431				
American Smlr Cos	242.60	258.90	- 3.60	0.13
European Gth	854.50	907.20	+ 1.40	0.53
Euro Eq & Bd Inc	59.91	63.38	- 0.09	3.33
-do- Accum	69.93	73.99	- 0.10	3.33
High Yield #	54.07	57.15†	+ 0.01	7.03
-do- Accum #	64.38	68.06	+ 0.02	7.03
Income Inc	224.20	238.80	- 1.20	3.71
-do- Accum	264.80	283.20	- 1.50	3.71
Intl Growth	404.00	429.50	- 1.40	0.29
Intl Income	116.90	123.60†	- 0.10	2.06
Japan Growth	378.80	400.80	- 1.30	.
Orient Acc	133.40	142.20	- 3.10	0.21
UK General Inc	228.10	244.00	+ 1.50	1.62
UK General Acc	413.60	442.40	+ 2.70	1.62
UK Sm Cos Div Acc	67.34	72.67	+ 0.06	1.60
UK Spec Sits	118.80	127.10	+ 0.10	1.19
US Growth	228.00	240.90	- 2.90	
GARTMORE FUND MANAGERS				
0171 782 2000 Dlgs only 01277 264 421				
UK Growth Funds				
British Growth	75.12	80.30	+ 0.51	1.81
Practical Inv Inc #	138.66	146.16	- 0.42	3.29
-do- Accum #	329.95	363.58	+ 1.03	3.29
UK Index	219.57	220.67	+ 0.01	2.88
UK Smaller Cos	249.09	266.41	+ 0.50	0.35
Income Funds				
Extra Yield	26.30	27.25		6.75
High Income	42.40	45.22†	+ 0.04	3.14
UK Growth & Inc	195.27	208.33†	+ 0.30	1.71
Global Bond	27.38	28.39†	- 0.49	5.11
International Funds				
Emerging Markets	41.78	44.66	+ 0.46	.
Global Managed	152.88	162.26	- 0.72	1.15
Gold & Intl Res	76.78	82.12†	+ 1.31	
Global Utilities	179.90	192.21†	+ 2.08	0.63
Overseas Funds				
American	243.33	254.35	- 1.21	0.35
European	162.44	172.70	- 1.45	0.49
Euro Sel Opps	258.37	276.14	- 1.75	
Amer Emerging	194.36	208.02†	- 1.82	
Hong Kong	131.51	140.45	- 6.95	1.60
Japan	142.24	150.73	- 3.69	
Pacific Growth	150.98	161.67	- 3.15	.
Gartmore Pensions Strategy Funds				
Cash Trust	154.62	154.62†	+ 0.17	6.93
Managed Equity	289.07	289.07	- 0.43	1.58
Long Term Bal	308.97	308.97	+ 2.36	2.70
Med Term Bal	257.24	257.24	+ 1.49	2.75
UK Equity	368.26	368.26	+ 0.23	1.97
UK Emerging Cos	190.26	190.26†	- 0.49	2.14
American	400.94	400.94	- 0.08	0.17
Japan	89.39	89.28†	- 0.97	
European	424.78	424.78	- 0.08	0.62
Index Linked Gilt	212.63	212.63†	- 0.57	2.46
Fixed Interest	204.27	204.27†	- 0.45	6.73
Amer Emerging	433.24	433.24	- 1.09	.
Pacific	122.02	122.02†	- 3.33	2.39
Emerging Mkts	121.78	121.78	+ 2.17	0.77
Index Strat Japan	90.40	90.40	- 1.99	0.40
-do- Pacific Rim	118.92	118.92	- 2.70	2.12
-do- Cont Europe	232.23	232.23	- 1.58	1.23
Index Strat USA	252.04	252.04	- 1.56	1.09
Gartmore Personal Pension Funds				
Managed Equity	136.66	145.33	- 0.22	
Med Term Bal	122.34	131.10	+ 0.75	
Long Term Bal	139.63	148.54	- 0.35	
UK Equity	171.87	182.83	+ 0.11	
UK Emerging Cos	89.89	95.62	- 0.25	
American	186.33	198.22	- 0.05	
Japan	42.70	45.43	- 0.43	
European	177.00	188.29	- 0.05	
Fixed Interest	105.96	112.71	+ 0.23	
Index Linked Gilt	94.97	100.96	- 0.22	
Deposit	93.58	99.55	+ 0.11	
Broker Unit Trusts				
BWH Intl	166.32	175.07	+ 0.55	0.49
GLOBAL ASSET MANAGEMENT				
GAM Sterling Management 0171 493 9990				
Stg & Intl Inc	731.24	777.92	+ 11.75	
-do- Accum	830.03	883.02	+ 13.34	.
European Inc	207.76	219.88	- 0.91	0.37
Amalgam Inc	180.68	192.16	- 2.39	.
N America Inc	510.19	542.75	- 10.54	
Far East Inc	248.37	264.22	- 7.46	0.50
-do- Accum	257.78	274.23	- 7.75	0.50
UK Divid Inc	246.13	261.84	- 1.39	0.90
GUARDIAN UT MGRS LTD				
0171 538 9688				
European	692.90	740.10†	- 0.90	
Gilt & Fixed	143.10	151.90	+ 0.40	5.07
Growth Equity	503.50	537.90†	- 0.40	1.65
Income Trust	131.30	193.60†	- 3.90	2.59
International	218.10	233.00	- 2.30	
Japan Trust	86.15	92.04	- 1.91	
Nth American	435.60	465.30	- 2.50	.
Pacific	348.80	372.40	- 2.20	2.94
Gearchall	723.40	772.80	- 0.30	1.77
GUINNESS FLIGHT UT MGRS LTD				
0171 522 2129				
European Bond	97.97	101.67	- 0.93	4.68
Global High Inc	94.34	97.97†	- 0.62	4.90
Stg Bond Pflo	115.27	119.63	- 0.05	5.88
Cast Mgd Pflo	132.90	142.35	- 0.32	4.10
European Pflo	152.59	163.20	- 2.01	
World Mkts Pflo	77.05	84.05	- 0.85	0.43
UK Eq Inc Pflo	171.73	182.55	- 1.45	3.23
-do- Accum	262.30	280.90	- 2.20	3.29
UK Opps	501.30	532.20	+ 3.12	2.37
-do- Accum	512.10	550.80	+ 4.66	2.37
St Vinc High Inc	146.46	148.62	- 0.22	5.61
UK Emerg Cos	281.90	299.60†	- 1.10	3.62
Inst UK Sm Co	383.00	385.50	- 1.55	4.24
Glob Pfra Tst	137.98	146.61†	- 1.22	1.52
-do- Accum	144.72	153.35	- 1.34	1.52
Inc Share Tst	107.64	113.22	+ 1.52	7.52
HP & Chrtg Tst	75.43	81.26	- 1.53	1.70
High Provider	108.32	111.32	+ 0.31	4.34
Blue Chip Pflo	295.93	308.63	+ 0.15	2.14
HALIFAX UT MGMT LTD				
Dealing: 01904 611110				
Balanced Inc	65.21	69.15†	- 0.15	2.73
Balanced Acc	71.34	75.65	- 0.16	2.73
Growth	40.63	42.98†	- 0.02	1.64
Growth Acc	42.54	45.21	+ 0.08	1.64
Income	38.40	40.72†	- 0.11	3.70
Income Acc	42.85	45.44	- 0.13	3.70
Accumulation Tst	34.16	37.01	+ 0.09	2.67
HARGREAVES LANSDOWN FUND MGRS LTD				
Enquiries: 01277 690 230 Dealing: 01277 690 412				
UK Pesf Acc	53.07	56.24	- 0.24	2.13
HENDERSON INVESTORS				
Enquiries: 0645 434349 Dealing: 0645 464646				
UK Funds				
UK Enterprise	402.52	427.11	+ 1.78	[illegible]
Best of British	87.61	93.12†	+ 0.29	1.55
UK Smaller Cos	165.16	177.54	+ 1.79	1.11
High Income Funds				
Income & Growth #	372.59	396.18†	+ 2.21	2.75
-do- Accum #	1095.58	1166.57	+ 0.63	2.73
High Income	406.02	434.02	- 1.85	3.63
Extra Income #	245.26	257.17†	- 0.32	5.13
Pref & Bond	56.15	59.12	- 0.11	7.2
International				
Ethical	130.93	140.57	- 0.21	1.00
International	340.22	360.78	- 2.34	
Global Bond	52.54	55.32†	- 0.34	5.51
Intl Port Tst	109.77	117.30†	+ 0.82	2.21
Global Tech	250.92	267.73†	- 1.38	
Overseas Funds				
Asian Enterprise	140.59	152.17†	- 0.17	1.16
European	763.17	805.01	- 6.85	2.13
European Income #	109.95	116.53	- 0.67	3.73
Euro Smlr Cos	222.27	237.02	- 3.47	0.32
European Value	107.45	116.91	- 0.87	
-do- Accum	118.19	125.74	- 0.95	
Japan Trust	118.33	125.48	- 1.36	
Japan Smlr Cos	98.11	104.27	- 5.17	
Pacific Smlr Cos	152.36	162.42	- 4.47	
North American	403.47	427.52	- 7.21	.
American Smaller	213.94	227.57	- 5.51	
HILL SAMUEL UNIT TST MGRS				
0800 536053				
Britain	152.53	162.42†	+ 0.26	1.47
Capital	225.71	240.01	- 0.53	1.17
Dollar	620.68	643.92†	- 2.82	.
Enterprise Gth	501.52	525.75	- 1.22	0.79
European	333.80	349.53	- 3.14	
Far East	190.15	199.11†	- 4.22	2.02
Financial	1404.44	1472.62	+ 6.56	1.36
Gilt & Fxd Int Inc	29.72	29.47	- 0.05	5.93
High Yield #	137.25	143.73†	+ 0.54	3.72
Income & Growth #	200.37	211.91	+ 0.05	2.97
International	321.90	336.65	- 0.14	0.41
Japanese General	140.67	147.27†	- 1.79	
Japan Tech	62.05	64.57	- 1.27	
Nat Resources	55.93	58.66	+ 0.34	1.42
Portfolio	95.57	100.12	- 0.30	2.39
Special Sits	243.76	255.25	+ 3.39	0.84
UK Emerging Cos	132.87	139.12	- 3.01	1.19
US Smaller Cos	136.40	151.27	+ 1.73	
HSBC UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
Advisers 0800 181 890 Investors 0800 289 505				
Active Funds-UK				
Income #	801.52	856.10	- 3.10	4.70
UK Growth	636.20	682.10	+ 2.20	1.24
High Income #	143.10	152.70†	- 3.10	3.39
Active Funds-International				
American Gwth	775.20	819.00	- 7.90	
European Gwth	190.60	202.60†	- 1.80	
Japan Gwth	204.75	217.90	- 2.36	
Japan Smllr Cos	16.99	18.03	- 0.64	
Asian	36.75	39.25	- 0.56	0.77

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Sing & Malay Gwth	41.25	44.03	- 1.14	
Hong Kong Gwth	148.70	158.30	- 4.10	0.36
Global Bond	20.73	21.90	- 0.08	4.23
Index Funds-UK				
UK Index	207.90	208.90	+ 0.10	2.66
Tracker Index	137.30	140.90	- 0.79	2.06
THE FOOTSIE FUND	83.58	84.00†	+ 0.24	2.08
Index Funds-International				
American Index	383.80	385.70	- 2.00	0.49
Eurotrack 100	242.20	243.40	- 1.60	0.74
Japan Index	48.61	48.85	- 0.84	0.25
Tiger Index	98.08	90.26	+ 2.72	1.71
INVESCO FUND MANAGERS LTD				
0171 626 3434 Dealing 0800 010 733				
UK Specialist Trusts				
UK Smaller Cos	49.72	51.93	- 0.01	1.75
General Funds				
Managed Dist	93.14	97.27†	- 0.82	1.06
Managed	96.97	101.30†	- 0.80	1.06
Pepet Child Fnd	132.10	137.80	+ 0.60	1.91
UK Growth	83.82	87.54†	+ 0.28	1.61
High Income Funds				
UK Extra Inc #	106.80	111.50	+ 0.20	4.79
Gilt & Fixed Int #	28.72	29.68†	- 0.43	7.32
UK Inc & Gwth	58.63	61.23	+ 0.19	2.66
UK Income #	452.90	473.00	+ 1.60	3.51
Overseas Growth Funds				
American Growth	72.67	75.46	- 2.56	...
Amer Smllr Cos	177.80	185.70	- 7.30	.
-do- Accum	179.70	187.70	- 7.40	
Europe Gth	288.90	298.80	- 4.10	...
-do- Accum	297.00	309.50	- 4.30	..
Euro Smaller Cos	49.87	51.92	- 0.83	..
French Growth	105.83	110.00	- 1.80	0.57
-do- Accum	114.60	119.00	- 1.90	0.57
H Kong & China	100.20	104.40	- 3.20	0.57
Intl Growth	72.52	75.56	- 0.34	0.47
-do- Accum	73.99	77.09	- 0.35	0.47
Japan Gth	18.92	19.72	- 0.32	
-do- Accum	18.92	19.72	- 0.32	
Japan Smaller Cos	17.77	18.55	- 0.78	
Glob Emg Mkts	86.13	89.95	+ 1.01	0.12
-do- Accum	86.75	90.60	+ 1.02	0.12
SE Asia	202.50	211.20	- 3.30	0.64
Overseas Income Funds				
Intl Bond #	49.26	50.80†	- 0.18	6.13
JOHNSON FRY UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
Enq 01277 227300 Dealing 01277 690448				
UK Income #	133.30	141.10†	- 0.40	2.89
UK Growth	138.70	146.80†	.	1.44
Euro Growth	113.80	119.40†	+ 0.20	1.87
States Gwth	234.10	247.70	+ 3.70	0.61
New Japan	51.67	54.51†	- 0.35	.
JUPITER UT MGRS LTD				
0171 581 3020				
World Health	176.60	187.70	- 8.90	
Income #	271.68	289.02	- 0.89	3.88
UK Growth	100.70	107.12	- 0.43	2.15
Intl Growth	92.40	98.29	- 0.69	0.45
Ecology	116.24	123.65	+ 0.93	0.70
European	246.53	262.26	- 2.28	0.50
Far Eastern	249.50	265.30	- 3.40	
UK Special Sits	66.78	71.23	+ 0.09	0.37
Fd of Inv Tsts	58.30	62.18†	- 0.01	0.43
High Income #	59.70	63.67	- 0.21	4.74
Financial Opps	52.35	55.83†	- 0.31	

For Kleinwort Benson see Dresdner RCM

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
LAURENCE KEEN UNIT TRUST MGMT				
0171 407 5966				
Bridge Income	373.19	397.01	- 0.32	4.48
Esk Growth	114.07	121.35	- 4.13	0.58
Inc & Growth	85.58	91.04	+ 0.17	3.28
Smaller Cos	104.66	111.34	+ 0.20	1.46
Ever Spec Sit Inc	64.01	68.10†	+ 0.21	1.69
Ever Spec Sit Acc	67.75	72.07†	+ 0.21	1.69
Pennine Growth	60.63	64.50	- 1.14	2.08
LAZARD UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
01277 690 432				
UK Cap	543.60	574.90	- 9.00	1.51
UK Inc/Gth #	591.40	627.50	- 3.30	3.06
UK Income #	415.60	441.00†	- 2.70	4.00
UK Sm Cos	329.10	352.00	+ 7.20	1.85
Euro Gwth	188.10	198.30†	- 1.40	0.14
N Amer Gwth	149.60	158.70	- 0.10	
Pacific Growth	6.30	6.68	- 0.09	0.70
Emg Mkts Gwth	64.85	68.81	- 0.47	
Japan Growth	41.77	44.29	- 0.49	
Dealing: 01277 842626				
Gwth Port Inc	80.61	85.25	+ 0.82	0.62
Gwth Port Acc	82.34	87.08	+ 0.83	0.61
Inc Port Inc	75.90	80.26†	+ 1.03	3.40
Inc Port Acc	87.52	92.55†	+ 1.19	3.27
Wwide Port	62.03	65.60	- 0.03	..
LEGAL & GENERAL (UT MGRS) LTD				
Enquiries: 01222 448412 Dealing: 01222 683512				
Equity Dist @	727.30	727.30	+ 1.70	2.03
-do- Accum @	1538.00	1538.00	+ 4.00	2.03
Equity Income #	124.60	124.60	+ 2.10	4.58
UK Tactical Allocatn @	83.12	83.12†	+ 0.02	5.20
European @	174.90	174.90	- 1.10	0.15
Far Eastern @	152.90	152.90	- 2.90	.
Fixed Interest @	58.80	58.80†	+ 0.04	7.28
Gilt @	98.95	98.85†	+ 0.08	5.54
Global Growth @	80.34	80.34	- 0.62	0.42

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	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Intl Bond @	48.62	48.62	- 0.17	5.00
Japanese @	51.36	51.36†	- 1.00	
North American @	282.10	282.10	- 1.60	.
Pacific Growth @	76.61	76.61	- 1.16	0.89
Pacific Index @	31.04	31.04†	- 0.48	3.25
UK Index @	94.61	94.61†	+ 0.10	2.59
UK Recovery @	136.30	136.30†	+ 0.10	1.46
UK Smaller Cos @	178.50	178.50	- 1.90	1.19
US Index @	110.10	110.10†	- 0.60	0.71
European Index @	117.60	117.60	- 0.80	1.02
Japan Index @	24.78	24.78	- 0.46	.
Worldwide @	109.40	109.40†	- 0.30	1.12
LINCOLN UNIT TRUST MGRS				
01452 371 500 Dealing: 01452 371 623				
Growth	68.62	73.38†	+ 0.15	2.10
Income	82.24	87.95	- 0.31	3.43
Far East	29.65	31.71	- 0.94	.
North American	156.90	167.20	- 4.00	
Global	88.14	94.23	- 1.54	0.34
European	121.80	129.90	- 2.10	0.60
Japan	57.92	61.78	- 2.57	..
Intl Currency Bd	56.65	59.17	- 0.16	5.00
SE Asia	60.93	65.16	- 0.81	0.66
UK Cap Growth	122.40	130.30	- 0.10	1.79
Recovery Trust	95.73	102.30†	- 0.50	2.64
Managed	74.04	79.18	- 1.10	1.64
Cash	52.03	52.03	+ 0.05	6.71
LLOYDS BK UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
Helpdesk: 01634 834 339 Dealing: 01634 834 313				
Balanced	503.30	535.50	+ 1.40	1.80
-do- Accum	1224.00	1303.00	+ 4.00	1.80
Contl Euro Gth	94.32	99.29†	+ 0.91	0.01
-do- Accum	102.29	107.60	+ 1.00	0.01
Extra Inc #	353.20	375.80†	+ 0.50	3.29
Extra Inc Acc #	1017.00	1082.00	+ 1.00	3.29
FTSE 100 Inc	156.70	166.20	+ 0.60	1.97
FTSE 100 Acc	167.00	177.70	+ 0.60	1.97
German Gth	167.10	175.90	- 1.00	0.09
-do- Accum	175.20	184.50	- 1.00	0.08
Growth Fd	760.00	808.60	- 0.40	0.51
-do- Accum	800.40	851.50	- 0.60	0.51
High Interest Inc	109.60	113.90†		6.65
High Interest Acc	124.90	129.50	+ 0.10	6.65
Hi Reserve Inc #	123.90	131.88†	+ 0.20	5.20
Hi Reserve Acc #	143.10	152.30	+ 0.30	5.20
Income Inc #	695.00	739.40	+ 1.90	2.93
Income Acc #	2043.00	2174.00	+ 5.00	2.93
Income Port	677.30	720.60	+ 1.10	3.93
-do- Accum	793.90	844.60	+ 1.40	3.93
Japan Growth	73.37	78.06	- 0.38	.
-do- Accum	73.62	78.32	- 0.39	
Master Trust	76.44	81.32†	+ 0.15	1.42
-do- Accum	89.81	95.55	+ 0.19	1.42
Millennium Acc	118.40	126.00		1.93
N American Gen	311.30	331.20	+ 0.40	0.02
-do- Accum	360.30	383.30	+ 0.50	0.02
NAm Sm Co Rec	228.80	243.60	+ 2.10	.
-do- Accum	233.60	248.50	+ 2.10	
Pacific Basin	160.00	170.30	- 1.30	1.08
-do- Accum	170.60	181.50	- 1.30	1.00
Society First Acc	114.80	120.90	+ 0.10	1.47
Do until 27/01/98 :	109.20			
Small Cos Rec	553.00	588.20	+ 2.70	2.08
-do- Accum	775.82	817.50	+ 3.80	2.08
UK Eq Gth	203.10	216.10	+ 0.20	2.22
UK Eq Inc #	161.70	172.10	+ 0.20	3.49
UK Growth	129.00	137.30	- 1.20	1.58
-do- Accum	164.60	175.20	- 1.60	1.58
Worldwide Gth	392.70	417.80†	+ 0.80	0.39
-do- Accum	581.20	618.30	+ 1.10	0.39
LONDON & MANCHESTER TST MGMT				
01392 282 673				
American	113.01	120.84	- 0.72	0.30
General	131.50	141.10†	+ 0.15	2.30
Income	89.63	96.16	+ 0.01	4.10
International	76.34	81.90	- 0.62	0.40
Japan	37.01	39.58	- 1.61	
Tst of Inv Trusts	83.86	88.92	+ 0.17	1.10
M & G SECURITIES				
Cust Svcs/Unit Dlg: 01245 390 390				
American	633.20	665.20	- 2.90	0.47
-do- Accum	780.20	824.10	- 3.50	0.47
Asian Recovery	773.60	818.10†	- 12.50	0.23
-do- Accum	894.70	946.20†	- 14.40	0.23
Amer Smllr Cos	180.40	190.80	- 4.10	
-do- Accum	194.30	195.00	- 4.20	
Australasian	181.70	192.20	+ 1.00	2.05
-do- Accum	232.40	245.90	+ 1.40	2.05
British Cos	66.00	69.90	- 0.30	2.61
-do- Accum	237.80	251.80	- 1.00	2.61
Capital	1094.70	1157.60	+ 7.90	2.57
-do- Accum	1339.60	1416.60	+ 9.70	2.57
Charifund	955.40	965.00	+ 2.70	5.05
-do- Accum	5275.90	5328.30	+ 10.80	5.05
Commodity	329.40	347.30	- 5.10	1.45
-do- Accum	486.50	514.70	- 7.50	1.45
Corporate Bond	75.59	78.70†	- 0.47	6.30
Dividend	52.60	55.80†	- 0.20	4.34
-do- Accum	248.70	263.00†	- 1.20	4.34
Equity Income	379.30	401.10	- 1.80	5.38
-do- Accum	549.70	581.30	- 2.68	5.38
European	748.80	791.90	- 7.10	0.56
-do- Accum	966.50	1022.10	- 9.10	0.56
Euro Dividend A	97.00	102.80	- 0.30	3.41
-do- Accum #	127.10	134.50	- 0.30	3.41
Euro Smlr Cos	57.00	60.30†	- 1.50	0.50
-do- Accum	57.20	60.50†	- 1.50	0.50
Extra Income	565.30	597.80	+ 1.20	4.63
-do- Accum	1993.50	2108.10	+ 4.00	4.63
Fund of Inv Tsts	765.90	803.80†	+ 11.20	1.46
-do- Accum	1501.90	1582.30†	+ 22.00	1.46
General	86.60	91.60	+ 0.30	3.25

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
-do- Accum	263.30	278.70	+ 1.20	3.25
Gilt Income	68.47	68.58†	- 0.19	5.70
-do- Accum	222.02	222.39†	- 0.61	5.70
Gold	35.60	37.80	+ 2.90	1.13
-do- Accum	42.90	45.30	+ 3.40	1.13
Income	38.80	42.10†		4.25
-do- Accum	179.80	190.40†	+ 0.10	4.29
Intl Growth	87.50	92.50	- 1.20	0.86
-do- Accum	155.90	164.80	- 2.10	0.86
International Inc	125.10	132.30	- 0.50	4.06
-do- Accum	207.70	219.80	- 0.80	4.08
Japan	22.70	23.40†	- 0.70	0.17
-do- Accum	23.90	25.10†	- 0.80	0.17
Japan Smlr Cos	75.50	79.80	- 1.90	0.14
-do- Accum	76.10	80.30	- 2.00	0.14
Managed Gwth	28.50	30.10	- 0.10	1.52
Managed Income	34.60	36.30†	- 0.10	4.20
Pension Ex	1287.90	1320.10	- 2.80	3.36
Recovery	55.10	58.30		2.74
-do- Accum	97.10	102.80	..	2.74
Smaller Cos	69.50	73.50	+ 0.70	2.61
-do- Accum	147.70	156.30	+ 1.50	2.61
Sth East Asia	248.40	262.70	- 3.30	2.19
-do- Accum	336.00	355.50	- 4.30	2.19
Treasury	25.07	25.15†	+ 0.01	7.08
Trustee	51.10	54.80	- 0.80	4.65
-do- Accum	232.30	245.50	- 2.50	4.65
UK Equity	84.30	89.10	- 0.70	3.82
-do- Accum	236.30	249.80	- 1.90	3.82
UK Growth	1305.40	1380.50	- 2.90	1.99
-do- Accum	1476.40	1561.30	- 3.30	1.99
MGM UNIT MANAGERS LTD				
Dealing: 01277 281 010 Enq: 01903 204 631				
European Growth	126.27	134.32	- 1.34	0.55
Intl Bond	60.99	64.11†	- 0.18	3.35
Intl Equity Growth	91.83	97.43†	- 0.50	0.57
N Amer Growth	173.89	184.41	+ 0.92	0.60
Special Sits Growth	34.11	36.28	+ 0.02	2.04
UK Growth	562.59	598.49	+ 1.02	2.38
-do- Accum	793.28	843.91	+ 1.43	2.38
MW JOINT INVESTORS LTD				
01620 825867				
Balanced Fd #	1452.60	1470.40†	+ 4.50	2.90
Income #	1180.80	1188.20	+ 8.80	4.30
MALDON UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0131 222 4242				
Maldon General	188.50	192.90†	+ 2.00	3.63
MANEK INVESTMENT MGMT LTD				
0171 616 7070				
Growth Fd Acc	94.54	100.20	+ 0.20	
MARKS & SPENCER UNIT TRUST LTD				
0800 363432				
High Income #	102.70	105.90†	+ 0.10	6.35
Investment Pflo	205.00	211.40	- 0.20	2.14
-do- Accum	248.40	256.10	- 0.30	2.14
UK Select Pflo	193.60	199.50†	+ 0.50	1.98
-do- Accum	240.10	247.60†	+ 0.70	1.98
UK 100 Cos	150.10	150.10	+ 0.30	2.00
-do- Accum	156.10	156.10	+ 0.40	2.00
MARLBOROUGH FUND MGRS LTD				
01204 364 842				
Managed Tst	79.97	85.07	+ 1.11	2.79
MARTIN CURRIE UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
0131 479 4646				
Intl Income	97.69	103.70†	+ 0.50	4.08
European	123.40	131.00	+ 0.50	0.26
Income #	100.30	106.50†	+ 0.90	4.09
Nth American	117.00	124.20	- 0.60	0.24
Far East	133.20	141.40	- 2.40	
Japan	48.59	51.58	- 0.46	..
Emging Mkts	80.14	85.71	+ 1.41	0.65
Intl Growth	138.80	147.10	- 0.10	0.68
UK Growth	145.50	154.50†	+ 0.90	2.50
UK Smlr Co	65.57	69.61†	- 0.40	1.48
Asia Pacific	26.82	28.68	- 0.34	0.42
Glob Gwth PEP	70.94	75.30	+ 0.39	0.81
MATHESON UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
0161 831 7433				
Select Portfolio	107.40	114.30	+ 0.30	
MAYFLOWER MANAGEMENT CO LTD				
0171 407 5966				
Income	581.99	619.14	+ 0.49	3
Global Inc	89.87	95.61	- 0.51	2.60
Brit Leaders Inc	453.43	482.37	- 0.57	1.65
Intl Leaders	271.73	289.07	- 4.00	0.97
PAM Mg Bal Gth	74.49	77.55	+ 0.36	0.22
MERCURY FUND MANAGERS LTD				
Dealing: 0800 445522				
American	352.30	373.40†	- 1.70	..
-do- Accum	377.70	399.40†	- 1.70	.
American Opps	140.30	149.70	- 0.90	. .
-do- Accum	142.00	151.50	- 1.00	
British Blue Chip	120.60	128.30	+ 0.60	2.57
-do- Accum	159.90	170.20	+ 0.80	2.57
Cash	100.90	100.90	+ 0.10	6.84
-do- Accum	156.90	156.90	+ 0.10	6.84
Emerging Mkts	127.80	137.40	+ 3.10	0.22
-do- Accum	129.50	139.30	+ 3.10	0.22
European Growth	396.70	430.10	- 1.50	0.13
-do- Accum	433.00	458.50	- 1.70	0.13
General	706.80	753.10	+ 4.50	2.14
-do- Accum	1474.00	1570.00	+ 9.00	2.14
Global Bond	127.10	133.60	+ 0.40	4.78
-do- Accum	178.90	185.90	+ 0.50	4.78
Gold & General	112.40	120.50	+ 10.50	0.59
-do- Accum	116.30	124.70	+ 10.90	0.59
Gilt Securities	100.60	103.70†	+ 0.50	5.26
-do- Accum	226.70	233.70†	+ 1.30	5.26
High Yield Bd	109.40	112.00†	+ 0.30	6.00
-do- Accum	124.30	127.30†	+ 0.50	6.00
Income	233.80	248.90†	+ 1.00	3.62
-do- Accum	404.00	430.20†	+ 1.80	3.62
Inc Portfolio #	128.60	136.30	+ 0.70	4.79
-do- Accum #	146.90	155.40	+ 1.00	4.79
Intl Opps	611.90	652.70†	- 3.00	0.76
-do- Accum	834.00	889.60†	- 4.00	0.76
Japan	132.10	140.90	- 1.40	
-do- Accum	135.60	144.60	- 1.50	.
New Europe	281.10	299.80	- 3.20	0.94
-do- Accum	295.00	314.70	- 3.30	0.94
Pacific	68.83	73.44	- 1.57	0.31
-do- Accum	74.31	79.23	- 1.68	0.31
Recovery	549.30	586.00†	- 1.50	1.60
-do- Accum	735.20	784.30†	- 2.20	1.60
UK Smaller Cos	67.50	72.00	+ 1.25	1.63
-do- Accum	79.05	84.32	+ 1.47	1.63
Portfolio	107.30	114.10	+ 0.40	2.61
-do- Accum	135.30	143.70	+ 0.40	2.61
Managed Gth	135.10	142.90†	+ 0.10	1.78
Managed Inc	134.70	139.90†	+ 0.10	3.95
METROPOLITAN UT MGRS LTD				
01707 662 233				
Eurogrowth Plus	185.73	197.59	- 0.75	0.12
Portfolio	93.30	99.25†	+ 0.19	1.21
UK Income Inc	116.12	123.53	+ 0.75	3.82
MIDLAND UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
Enq: 0345 456 123 Dlg. 0345 456 126				
Balanced	77.35	80.99	+ 0.07	2.44
-do- Accum	87.57	91.70	+ 0.09	2.44
British Tst	132.70	139.00	+ 0.30	1.87
-do- Accum	162.30	169.90	+ 0.30	1.87
Corp Bond Inc	106.00	109.80	.	6.00
-do- Accum	115.80	120.00		6.00
Extra High Inc	85.60	89.63		5.89
-do- Accum #	195.10	204.30		5.89
FTSE 100 Acc	91.39	95.70	+ 0.29	1.80
FTSE 100 Dist	64.11	68.07	+ 0.27	1.80
Gilt & Fxd Int	59.55	61.97†	- 0.01	5.90
-do- Accum	202.40	210.60†	- 0.10	5.90
High Yield	287.80	303.50	- 0.20	5.61
-do- Accum #	853.40	893.80	- 0.60	5.61
Household Names	117.00	117.80	+ 0.40	1.53
Income	400.30	419.20	- 0.30	3.61
-do- Accum #	973.70	1020		3.61
Money Market UT	49.56	49.56	+ 0.05	6.58
-do- Accum	87.92	87.92	+ 0.09	6.58
Monthly Income	115.80	121.30†	+ 0.50	3.91
Midland Personal Pension Unit Trust				
British	170.00	180.80	+ 0.40	1.83
European Growth	171.10	181.30	- 1.60	
Gilt & Fixed	114.60	121.50	.	5.78
Income	133.80	142.30		3.63
Japan Growth	33.59	35.59	+ 0.32	...
Managed	96.25	102.40	+ 0.80	2.34
Money Market	101.90	102.00	+ 0.10	5.06
North American	137.40	145.70	- 2.80	..
Midland FSAVCS Unit Trust				
British	154.70	163.30	+ 0.40	1.83
European Growth	160.50	170.10	- 1.50	.
Gilt & Fixed Int	106.90	113.30	+ 0.10	5.81
Income	130.90	139.30		3.63
Japan Growth	33.66	35.68	+ 0.32	
Managed	91.91	97.72	+ 0.13	2.34
Money Market	93.96	93.59	+ 0.12	5.05
North American	123.10	130.50	- 2.50	
Midland Executive Pension Unit Trust				
British	152.70	162.40	+ 0.40	1.83
European Growth	167.20	182.60	- 1.40	
Gilt & Fixed Int	95.62	101.40		5.85
Income	127.30	135.40		3.63
Japan Growth	34.44	36.50	+ 0.32	...
Managed	94.75	100.89	+ 0.20	2.23
Money Market	84.65	89.73	+ 0.08	5.09
North American	137.70	146.00	- 2.80	
MORGAN GRENFELL INVEST FDS LTD				
Dealers: 0171 588 7474 Enquiries: 0171 588 7171				
American Gwth	571.40	606.30	- 11.50	..
European Gth Inc	611.08	648.40†	- 14.30	.
-do- Accum	617.60	655.50†	- 14.50	
Intl Gwth	256.80	272.50†	- 2.00	..
UK Equity Inc	264.30	281.00	- 0.80	3.64
-do- Accum	374.80	397.60	- 1.20	3.64
UK Growth Inc	157.00	168.60	- 0.40	2.84
-do- Accum	163.40	175.50	- 0.40	2.84
UK Intl Trckr Inc	239.80	254.70	+ 0.10	2.56
-do- Accum	302.00	322.00	+ 0.10	2.56
US Eq Ind Trk Inc	365.60	387.30	- 1.50	0.89
Japan Tracker	44.03	46.45†	- 0.86	..
Asian Tracker	130.10	140.30	- 3.60	0.47
Mixed Pfolio Inc	209.90	223.60†	- 1.50	1.47
Mngd Pfolio Acc	234.40	249.76†	- 1.70	1.57
Deposit Inc	100.13	100.13†	+ 0.09	6.75
Europa	247.80	265.30	- 7.40	..
Genesis	219.50	238.30†	- 0.20	2.34
High Income	20.92	22.25	+ 0.01	10.80
Japan Growth	68.82	73.06	- 0.29	...
MURRAY JOHNSTONE UT MGMT				
0345 090 933				
Acumen	120.40	122.90	+ 0.10	2.09
Acumen Inc	107.30	109.60	+ 0.10	2.07

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Acumen Reserve	109.70	110.80	+ 0.20	6.19
-do- Inc	80.14	80.94	+ 0.11	6.19
American Growth	77.80	79.70	- 0.20	.
Equity Income #	126.60	128.90†	+ 0.20	3.74
European	97.00	99.09	+ 0.62	.
Smaller Cos	95.34	98.54†	- 0.56	1.43
Wwide Eqty	83.31	85.06	+ 0.58	0.02
Global Bond	41.41	41.84†	+ 0.03	4.86
UK Growth	130.50	134.70	+ 0.30	1.29
Pacific Growth	74.22	76.14	- 1.13	2.60
Japan Growth	77.54	78.78	- 1.76	.
NFU MUTUAL UNIT MGRS LTD				
Enquiries: 01277 227 300 Dealing: 01277 261 610				
Avon Equity	186.85	198.81	+ 0.42	1.62
NPI INVESTMENT MGRS				
0171 623 4200				
Americas Dist	151.10	159.00†	- 3.10	0.01
European Dist	182.30	191.90†	- 1.70	0.05
Far East Dist	120.10	126.40	- 1.10	0.05
Global Care Dist	98.92	104.13†	+ 0.02	0.18
Oseas Dist	1081.00	1137.80	- 12.10	0.18
-do- Accum	1406.60	1480.60	- 15.70	0.18
UK Dist	521.20	548.60†	+ 0.50	1.59
-do- Accum	1084.70	1141.80	+ 0.90	1.59
UK Extra Inc Dist	108.60	114.30	- 0.10	3.14
Wwide Dist	119.80	126.18	- 1.10	0.36
Wwide Inc Dist	96.70	101.79	- 0.23	1.63
NATWEST UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD				
Dlg: 01277 690 260 Admin Enq: 01277 690 398				
Europe Inc	93.68	98.87	- 1.02	0.36
Fund of Funds Inc	75.27	79.44†	- 1.74	0.82
North America Inc	79.15	83.64	- 0.36	.
UK Equity Gth Inc	85.38	90.11†	- 0.18	1.45
-do- Accum	94.71	99.96	- 0.20	1.45
UK General Inc	79.57	83.98	- 0.07	1.56
-do- Accum	90.29	95.29	- 0.09	1.56
UK Gilt/Fix Int Inc	50.16	52.83	+ 0.05	5.75
UK Income Inc	79.99	84.42†	- 0.09	2.18
UK Smlr Cos Inc	131.47	138.75	+ 1.12	1.03
NEWTON FUND MGRS LTD				
Enquiries: 0800 614 330 Dealing: 0500 440 000				
American	83.03	87.50	- 0.62	.
-do- Accum	83.52	87.57	- 1.08	...
Bond	132.38	140.79†	- 0.37	4.95
Cash Income	50.25	50.35†	+ 0.05	6.79
-do- Accum	73.03	73.03†	+ 0.08	6.79
Challenger	92.72	92.72†	- 0.37	1.20
Distributor	128.12	136.29†	+ 1.35	2.35
European	73.70	78.40	- 0.19	
Foundation	126.46	134.53	- 1.46	1.58
General Inc	258.51	272.88	- 2.43	1.02
General Acc	261.99	278.71	- 2.49	1.02
Growth Inc	166.64	177.27	+ 2.47	1.60
Growth Acc	174.24	185.36	+ 2.57	1.60
Higher Income Inc	41.90	44.57	+ 0.57	4.84
-do- Accum	53.11	56.50	+ 0.72	4.84
High Yield Bond #	98.15	102.37†	- 0.11	7.42
Income	344.75	366.75	+ 3.36	2.80
Intrepid	172.36	179.54†	+ 7.20	1.38
Intl Gwth	42.98	45.72	- 0.52	.
Japan	22.52	23.95	- 0.77	
Oriental Inc	106.85	113.77	- 1.84	0.19
-do- Accum	110.86	117.95	- 1.92	0.19
NORTHERN ROCK UNIT TRUST LTD				
0191 285 2555				
High Income #	57.13	60.45	+ 0.38	5.38
UK Growth	140.40	146.60	+ 1.40	2.45
NORWICH UNION TST MANAGERS				
01603 682 234				
Master Trust	154.33	162.45	+ 0.38	1.78
UK Equity	208.24	217.89	+ 0.50	2.40
UK Equity Income #	186.41	198.22†	+ 0.10	4.79
UK Smaller Cos	161.83	170.35	+ 0.25	1.45
UK Equity Growth	174.84	184.04	+ 0.19	1.14
UK Index Trckg	206.65	217.06	- 1.36	2.22
Intl Index Trckg	186.56	196.89	- 1.51	0.88
International	296.19	311.78	- 1.53	0.90
European	306.98	323.14	- 1.84	0.01
Pan European	205.06	215.85†	- 1.83	0.93
Nth American	304.87	320.92†	- 1.96	0.23
N Amer Smlr Cos	336.01	353.69	+ 1.13	..
Japanese	82.83	86.24†	- 1.62	0.10
Pacific	155.19	163.36†	- 2.56	1.78
South East Asian	167.43	176.24	- 1.58	1.95
Sterling Bond	109.71	115.48	- 0.06	6.01
Intl Bond	123.49	129.99	- 0.32	5.09
Gilt & Convertible	117.25	123.42†	- 3.29	5.80
Property	91.55	96.37†	+ 0.01	5.58
OLD MUTUAL FUND MGRS LTD				
01256 768 888				
European Inc	429.80	461.70	- 10.20	0.25
-do- Accum	456.80	490.70	- 10.80	0.25
Japan Inc	66.40	70.31	- 2.18	..
Nth American Inc	193.60	204.70	- 3.20	.
Worldwide Inc	199.90	212.30	- 3.20	0.17
Hong Kong Inc	153.10	163.80	- 3.90	1.26
Swiss Equities Inc	118.60	126.60	- 1.00	..
Wwide Bond Inc	67.77	71.63	- 0.23	4.45
Emging Asia Inc	119.10	127.90†	- 0.30	1.17
-do- Accum	120.10	128.90†	- 0.30	1.17
UK Money Mkt Inc	50.35	50.35†	+ 0.06	6.59
Thailand Inc	33.95	37.00†	+ 0.69	2.93
New Zealand Inc	78.99	85.49	- 4.82	1.97
Intl Mngd PEP Inc	83.25	89.07	- 1.01	0.73
Latin Am Cmp Inc	78.29	84.05	+ 2.18	0.92
UK All Str Mkr Inc	86.91	88.24	+ 0.06	2.00
Broker Unit Trusts				
Way Global Blue	89.59	95.31	+ 0.38	.
Global Portfolio	76.25	81.56	+ 0.31	.
Way Global Med	68.07	72.41	+ 0.14	.
Marsh Global Gth	64.11	67.99	- 0.99	0.22
AMR Bd Cwth Inc	131.80	141.10	+ 0.50	0.86
Temple Equity Inc	53.82	58.59	+ 0.02	1.32
Hartley Growth	146.50	155.90	+ 2.00	0.55
Intl Growth Inc	75.30	80.53	+ 1.54	...
IPS Portfolio Inc	107.30	113.80	+ 0.40	.
Roxburgh Strat Gth	77.47	82.86†	+ 0.67	0.17
UFC Growth	73.74	78.87	+ 0.48	1.07
Chartfield Port of Fds	54.84	57.34	+ 0.02	0.44
Pyg Intl Equity	84.75	90.64	+ 0.56	...
PEARL UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
Dlg: 0800 626 577 Enq: 01733 470 470				
Equity	342.80	364.70†	+ 0.60	1.70
-do- Accum	772.90	822.10	+ 1.00	1.70
Growth	221.80	233.40	+ 0.60	2.00
Income	331.90	353.00	+ 0.80	3.30
Intl Equity	298.00	317.00	- 0.30	0.38
-do- Accum	334.70	356.00	- 0.40	0.38
Equity Income #	89.88	95.60	+ 0.03	4.50
Equity Growth	116.70	124.10	+ 0.20	1.53
New Europe	126.10	134.10	+ 0.40	
PERPETUAL UNIT TST MGMT				
01491 417 000				
Intl Growth Inc	764.28	816.90	- 14.55	0.35
-do- Accum	772.17	825.35	- 14.70	0.35
Income	563.49	602.67	- 0.59	2.37
Wwide Recovery	491.04	525.18	- 12.57	0.29
Amer Growth Inc	357.19	379.55	- 11.07	0.01
-do- Accum	357.19	379.55	- 11.07	0.01
Intl Emerging Cos	291.43	311.89	- 6.34	0.10
Far Estn Gth Inc	230.49	246.62†	- 0.88	1.34
-do- Accum	235.18	251.53	- 1.01	1.34
Euro Gwth Inc	235.14	251.24†	- 2.64	0.01
-do- Accum	235.14	251.34	- 2.64	0.01
UK Growth Inc	141.54	151.39	- 0.87	2.16
-do- Accum	155.58	166.40	- 0.95	2.16
High Income	147.91	158.20	- 0.08	2.86
Jap Gwth Inc	121.26	129.52	- 7.16	0.01
-do- Accum	121.26	129.52	- 7.16	0.01
PEP Bond	64.65	67.32	- 0.03	6.65
PEP Growth	165.61	177.11	- 2.10	0.45
Asian Sir Mkts Inc	88.13	94.26	- 2.45	0.65
-do- Accum	88.42	94.57	- 2.45	0.65
Amer Smlr Co Inc	228.09	243.10†	- 9.29	0.01
-do- Accum	228.09	243.10	- 9.29	0.01
Global Bond	53.53	56.77	- 0.48	4.82
UK Smaller Cos Inc	114.52	122.49	- 0.20	2.00
-do- Accum	124.04	132.67	- 0.22	2.00
Lat Am Gwth Inc	38.11	40.77	+ 0.30	0.09
-do- Accum	38.72	41.42	+ 0.30	0.09
World Inc PEP #	48.83	51.68†	- 0.39	4.21
PILGRIM UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
0181 201 3927				
American	163.53	173.97	- 2.05	...
European	116.77	124.22	+ 1.37	..
Global	57.30	60.98†	+ 0.26	
Pacific	40.56	42.99†	- 0.48	..
UK Inc & Gwth	96.59	102.75	+ 1.83	1.32
PORTFOLIO FUND MGMT LTD				
Enq: 0171 638 0808 Dlg: 0171 588 8800				
Asia	40.31	42.83	+ 0.06	...
Emerg Mkts	44.74	47.47	+ 0.21	0.34
Euro Fund	50.26	53.33	+ 0.51	.
Fund of Funds	218.87	228.28	+ 1.52	0.03
High Income #	61.15	64.37†	+ 0.55	5.44
Performance	53.03	56.27	+ 0.31	..
PREMIER PORTFOLIO MGRS LTD				
01483 456 832				
Special Sit	226.50	242.20	- 1.40	
Dividend	127.00	135.80	+ 0.60	3.31
Intl Gth & Inc	273.30	290.70	+ 0.20	0.62
UK & Gen	59.35	63.48	+ 0.36	0.85
Fund of Funds	80.91	86.53	+ 0.64	
PRINCIPAL UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
01732 740 700				
Principal Tst	198.20	206.03	+ 0.35	2.32
PROLIFIC UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
Enquiries. 0171 280 3700 Dealing: 0800 262 443				
American Income	149.70	158.90	- 0.80	1.98
Conv & Gilt	131.80	140.20	+ 0.50	3.99
Euro Spc Sit Acc	116.80	124.30	- 1.80	.
Extra Income	275.20	228.90	- 0.40	4.00
-do- Accum	294.30	313.10†	+ 1.00	4.00
Far East	286.80	305.10	+ 2.30	1.48
-do- Accum	293.20	311.90	+ 2.30	1.48
Global Income	30.70	32.57	- 0.04	4.57
High Income	161.50	171.80	+ 0.30	3.90
-do- Accum	214.30	228.00	+ 0.40	3.90
International	230.50	245.20	+ 0.60	0.56
-do- Accum	240.70	256.10	+ 0.70	0.56
Pref & Fxd Int	52.75	56.12	+ 0.64	5.78
Recovery	101.00	107.40		2.26
Special Sits	162.40	172.80	+ 0.60	1.62
-do- Accum	183.80	195.50†	+ 0.60	1.62
Technology	717.10	762.90	- 11.30	...
UK Blue Chip	108.00	114.90	- 0.30	2.66
-do- Accum	129.40	137.70	- 0.30	2.66
PRUDENTIAL UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
UT Dealing: 0345 406000 Client Enq: 0345 835900				
Managed Tst	48.28	50.03	- 0.20	2.00
Cash Haven Inc	101.38	101.88†	+ 0.10	6.21
Cash Haven Acc	125.18	125.80	+ 0.12	6.21
Dist Trust Inc	118.08	122.36	- 0.19	4.67
Dist Trust Acc	138.97	144.01	- 1.32	4.67
Global Growth	114.74	122.06	- 0.56	1.56
Equity Inc	103.43	110.03†	- 0.11	3.84
Equity	1064.63	1132.59	+ 0.70	1.57
European	338.50	350.70†	- 3.15	0.54
High Income	105.71	112.46†	- 0.39	4.54
Intl Gth	225.99	240.41	- 2.46	1.07
Intl Sm Co	94.50	100.60	- 0.64	0.96
Japanese	105.85	109.48	- 5.37	..
Mgd Income Tst #	50.12	51.61†	- 0.12	7.32
Nth Amer	304.24	314.78†	- 3.67	0.90
Pacific Mkts	80.15	83.06	- 0.07	1.72
Premier Inc	50.70	52.76	+ 0.01	5.50
Sm Cos	116.91	124.37†	+ 0.31	1.35
Spec Sits	147.77	157.20	- 0.43	1.70
UK Growth	180.42	191.94	+ 0.08	1.66
QUILTER FUND MANAGEMENT LTD				
0171 407 5966				
Hi Inc Inv Inc	95.29	101.25	- 1.38	3.42
Investment Trust	122.07	128.36	+ 3.45	0.39
UK Smaller Cos	119.83	126.00	- 8.52	1.63
RELIANCE UNIT MGRS LTD				
01892 510 033				
British Life	424.10	449.90	+ 6.40	2.07
ROTHSCHILD FUND MANAGEMENT				
Dealers: 0171 623 1000 Client Services: 0800 124 314				
Five Arrows Portfolio Fund				
Asia Pacific	35.76	37.34†	- 0.35	
Cash	48.12	50.11†	+ 0.04	5.38
Emerging Mkts	45.96	47.99†	+ 0.30	.
Europe	75.11	78.44†	+ 1.00	
Global Fixed Int #	49.24	51.42†	+ 0.18	4.09
Japan	28.93	30.21†	- 0.16	
North America	84.50	88.25†	- 1.00	
UK	80.64	84.21†	+ 1.14	0.13

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
UK Equity Inc #	73.65	78.91†	+ 1.07	3.19
UK Fixed Int #	53.87	56.28†	+ 0.19	8.61
Portfolio Service PEP				
Pep Gth Port	58.52	60.64	+ 0.47	...
Pep Inc Port #	60.09	62.26	+ 0.67	2.75
Five Arrows Global Investment Funds				
A Shares				
Asian Opps ‡	36.90	...	- 0.03	
Asia Pacific ‡	34.74	.	+ 0.18	1.35
Europe ‡	46.05	..	- 0.29	...
Japan ‡	39.83	..	+ 0.26	...
Latin America ‡	41.39	..	+ 0.59	.
North America ‡	48.43	...	- 0.62	
UK Eq Income #	50.18		+ 0.30	3.83
UK Major Cos ‡	49.26		+ 0.15	0.09
UK Smaller Cos ‡	53.25	.	+ 0.08	1.05
ROYAL & SUN ALLIANCE UT MGMT LTD				
Enq: 0870 601 6183 Dealing: 0870 601 6060				
Royal & Sun Alliance Trusts				
Equity	1243.00	1429.00	+ 10.00	1.54
Equity Income #	137.50	145.40		4.08
European	211.80	224.10	- 2.90	
High Inc Bond	51.54	51.62	+ 0.12	6.03
Portfolio	130.00	137.50	- 0.40	1.89
UK Index Trckg	244.50	258.70	+ 0.20	3.10
UK Leading Cos	102.90	108.80	+ 0.20	1.94
UK Smaller Cos	135.80	143.40	..	1.22
Royal Life Trusts				
High Inc Dist	202.80	215.80	- 0.20	3.03
Intl Cautionary	68.13	71.99	+ 0.15	4.26
Intl Growth	86.68	91.64	- 0.66	.
Intl Spec	74.99	79.77	- 0.74	...
Managed	207.40	223.80	- 0.92	0.87
Pacific Basin	58.98	62.80	- 0.42	0.61
United States	165.10	174.70	- 1.20	0.31
Sun Alliance Trusts				
European	179.80	192.00	- 3.20	..
Far East	121.70	128.70	- 0.70	..
North America	242.40	259.20	- 1.20	
Wwide Bond	54.80	57.59	- 0.41	4.55
ROYAL LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
01206 764 400				
American Growth	246.80	261.90	- 1.50	1.03
European Growth	197.80	210.00	+ 5.00	1.06
Far East Growth	101.30	107.80	+ 0.80	2.59
Japan Growth	82.12	87.32	+ 0.29	0.65
Special Sits	256.00	272.30	- 0.60	1.96
UK Growth	129.30	137.50†	+ 2.00	2.44
Intl Growth	315.60	335.80	+ 4.30	1.84
ST JAMES'S PLACE UT GROUP LTD				
0141 307 8500				
Far East Inc	112.30	118.80	- 1.50	1.07
Gtr Euro Prog Inc	530.00	560.80	+ 5.60	0.71
-do- Accum	836.00	884.70	+ 8.70	0.71
Growth Inc	174.80	185.00	+ 2.70	0.10
-do- Accum	180.00	190.50	+ 2.90	0.10
International Inc	463.10	490.00	+ 7.10	0.40
-do- Accum	642.40	679.80	+ 9.90	0.40
Nth Am & Intl Inc	493.29	521.90	+ 0.10	1.51
UK Gen Prog Inc	313.60	331.80	+ 1.60	1.57
-do- Accum	363.30	384.40	+ 1.80	1.57
UK High Inc Inc	178.90	189.30	- 0.50	4.91
SANWA INTL INVEST SERVICES LTD				
0121 330 0572				
Asian Gwth	81.57	86.78	- 2.31	0.75
European Gwth	115.47	122.84†	- 1.19	1.00
Global Bd	60.46	63.06	+ 0.22	5.08
Japan	42.10	44.78	- 0.29	...
UK Gwth	107.73	114.60†	+ 1.30	1.75
SAVE & PROSPER GROUP				
Clients: 0800 829 100 Brokerline: 0800 727 770				
Amer Smllr Cos	170.50	181.40	- 2.30	...
Cash	143.30	143.30†	+ 0.10	6.53
China Dragon	59.02	62.79	- 1.68	0.24
Commodity	109.00	116.00	+ 0.90	...
Emerging Mkts	34.83	37.05	+ 0.41	0.54
European Gwth	294.80	313.80†	+ 1.70	...
Euro Smllr Cos	76.98	81.89†	- 0.43	...
Extra Income #	67.15	69.59†	+ 0.46	5.08
Far Eastern	69.90	74.36	- 0.72	..
FE Sm Cos	34.60	36.81	- 0.25	0.83
Financial Secs	430.30	457.80†	+ 5.50	1.20
Gold & Exploration	34.87	37.10	+ 2.34	...
Growth	546.60	549.30	+ 2.90	1.41
High Income	53.39	53.39†	+ 0.10	6.02
Intl Bond	157.10	166.00	+ 0.80	5.08
ITU	260.60	277.20	+ 2.70	1.00
Japan Growth	109.80	116.50	- 2.10	...
Japan Smaller	90.24	95.75	- 2.07	...
Korea	12.84	13.86	+ 2.32	...
Latin America	46.74	49.72	+ 0.07	0.07
Masterfund	71.14	71.50†	+ 0.23	0.87
Premier Eq Gth	210.20	223.60	+ 1.80	1.15
Premier Eq Inc #	449.90	478.60†	+ 4.70	3.76
SE Asia	30.97	32.95	- 0.07	0.24
Southern Africa	44.47	47.31	+ 1.46	1.21
UK & O'seas	225.80	240.29	+ 0.80	0.70
UK Eqty Gth	104.30	111.00	+ 0.89	1.14
UK Eqty Inc #	324.20	344.90	+ 2.10	3.77
UK Gth & Inc #	376.50	400.50	+ 3.20	2.56
UK Sm Cos	65.43	69.61	- 0.02	0.90
US Growth	278.10	295.70	- 5.80	...
New Europe ‡	58.95	.	+ 2.12	...
SCHRODER UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
Clnt: 0800 526 535 Brkr: 0800 526 540				
Retail Funds				
American	420.21	444.25†	- 14.04	0.40
-do- Accum	467.91	494.68†	- 15.63	0.40
European Gwth	109.13	115.65†	- 1.63	0.40
Euro Smllr Cos	118.46	125.83†	- 3.20	0.11
-do- Accum	120.23	127.81†	- 3.24	0.11
Far Eastern Gth	81.53	86.96	- 0.35	0.29
-do- Accum	83.10	88.64	- 0.35	0.29
Gilt & Fixed Int #	57.19	60.24	- 0.07	7.05
Global Bond #	45.54	47.05	- 0.31	8.05
-do- Accum #	57.02	58.91	- 0.39	8.05
Global Emer Mkts	46.03	49.09	+ 0.80	0.10
-do- Accum	46.07	49.13	+ 0.80	0.10
Income #	512.81	546.78	+ 1.29	4.29
-do- Accum #	1805.82	1926.08	+ 4.84	4.29
Japan Smllr Cos	201.80	215.25	- 7.61	...
-do- Accum	202.21	215.68	- 7.52	...
Japan Enterprise	44.13	47.07	- 1.13	...
Pacific Gwth	95.06	101.39	- 3.43	1.08
-do- Accum	98.82	105.40	- 3.57	1.08
Portfolio	105.41	112.18	- 0.14	1.87
-do- Accum	119.13	126.79	- 0.16	1.87
Seoul	11.76	12.54†	+ 1.61	...
-do- Accum	11.76	12.54†	+ 1.61	...
Smaller Cos	378.55	403.78†	+ 5.02	0.80
-do- Accum	455.18	485.44†	+ 6.04	0.80
Strategic Inc	111.77	118.94	+ 0.03	2.52
Strategic Acc	114.61	121.96	+ 0.03	2.52
Tokyo	96.88	103.33	- 1.50	...
-do- Accum	97.86	104.38	- 1.50	...
UK Enterprise	398.31	424.86†	- 0.75	2.08
-do- Accum	508.35	542.24†	+ 3.34	2.08
UK Equity	367.96	392.49	- 0.28	2.19
-do- Accum	760.36	811.04	- 0.59	2.19
US Smllr Cos	308.45	329.77†	- 11.29	
-do- Accum	308.45	328.77†	- 11.29	..
Institutional Funds				
European	356.63	369.65	- 2.40	1.03
-do- Accum	408.42	421.27	- 2.73	1.03
Euro Smllr Cos	38.35	39.93†	- 0.54	1.01
-do- Accum	41.86	43.59†	- 0.58	1.01
Global Equity Inc	99.91	103.77	- 0.18	1.01
Japan Smllr Cos	19.88	20.70†	- 0.51	0.23
-do- Accum	20.10	20.94†	- 0.51	0.23
Mngd Balanced	247.47	257.72	+ 0.56	3.41
-do- Accum	297.99	310.32	+ 0.66	3.41
Overseas Equity	211.80	220.29†	- 1.48	1.02
-do- Accum	224.77	233.78†	- 0.78	1.02
Oseas Smllr Cos	119.20	124.25	- 2.23	0.78
-do- Accum	127.18	132.47	- 2.38	0.78
Pacific	168.96	176.00	- 5.23	2.59
-do- Accum	191.28	199.24	- 5.83	2.59
Recovery	2752.02	2866.68	- 3.35	2.89
-do- Accum	3109.52	3239.07	- 3.68	2.89
UK Index	226.28	235.71†	- 0.46	2.82
-do- Accum	302.21	314.79†	- 0.61	2.82
UK Small Cos	157.56	164.12	+ 0.56	2.62
-do- Accum	178.53	185.96	+ 0.64	2.62
US Smllr Cos	78.65	81.81	- 2.63	0.59
-do- Accum	81.22	84.59	- 2.71	0.59
SCOTTISH AMICABLE UT MGRS LTD				
0141 204 2200				
Equity Income	74.00	78.26	+ 1.35	2.55
Equity Trust	97.88	103.51	+ 1.86	2.95
Equity Strategy	101.80	107.65	+ 0.74	1.70
European Opps	137.48	138.04	+ 2.74	0.15
UK Smaller Cos	83.69	88.50	+ 0.05	1.47
Moderate Inc	100.51	103.12	+ 0.62	7.73
Japanese	42.11	44.53	- 1.81	..
Asia Pacific	78.81	83.34	- 0.50	0.56
American	171.69	181.56	- 1.38	0.88
SCOTTISH EQUITABLE FD MGRS LTD				
0800 454 422				
Cash	35.23	35.23	+ 0.04	6.91
UK Eq Gwth Inc	73.65	78.49	- 0.14	2.59
-do- Accum	102.41	109.14	- 0.21	2.59
Intl Income	324.92	345.65	- 2.26	1.34
-do- Accum	582.20	619.33	- 4.05	1.34
European	125.86	133.47†	- 1.65	1.04
Japan	46.19	48.92†	- 1.16	0.05
American	129.65	136.97	- 1.19	1.07
Far East Tact	60.05	64.05	- 0.34	1.75
Ethical Inc	45.20	48.34	+ 0.08	1.86
-do- Accum	52.84	56.51	+ 0.09	1.86
UK Blue Chip Inc	50.45	53.81	- 0.05	2.60
-do- Accum	62.31	66.47	- 0.05	2.60
UK Equity Inc	52.33	55.82†	- 0.45	3.78
-do- Accum	79.37	84.66†	- 0.68	3.79
UK Global Inc	56.33	59.99	- 0.05	1.84
-do- Accum	82.55	88.62	- 0.04	1.84
Wwide Tact	93.83	99.83	- 0.79	1.03
Europe Tactical	90.88	96.91	- 1.33	0.55
Technology	167.24	177.32	- 8.17	0.45
Dist Inc	29.28	31.07	- 0.01	5.42
-do- Accum	31.02	32.91	- 0.02	5.42
UK Ext Inc Inc	26.18	27.71	+ 0.02	7.20
-do- Accum	28.52	30.17	+ 0.01	7.20
SCOTTISH LIFE INVESTMENTS				
0131 225 2211				
UK Equity	616.90	657.00	+ 0.70	1.87
American	425.50	450.40	- 4.00	0.29
Pacific	286.00	304.80	- 6.50	0.58
European	764.10	817.20	- 4.70	0.65
Worldwide	93.36	99.79	- 0.41	0.35
SCOTTISH MUTUAL INV MGRS LTD				
0141 248 6100				
UK Equity Inc	401.10	426.69†	+ 0.60	1.83
-do- Accum	543.10	577.79†	+ 0.78	1.83
UK Sr Co Eq Inc	276.70	294.30†	- 2.78	1.45
-do- Accum	346.40	368.50†	- 3.30	1.45
Select Opptnty Inc	99.49	106.40	+ 0.60	1.57
Income Plus Inc	104.00	110.60	- 0.40	3.99
European Inc	518.80	551.10	- 6.80	0.58
-do- Accum	601.90	639.30	- 7.90	0.58
Far Eastern Inc	117.10	124.50	- 2.20	1.42
-do- Accum	137.10	145.80	- 2.60	1.42
Japanese Inc	39.49	41.99	- 0.77	...
Nth American Inc	423.30	449.30	- 7.20	0.27
-do- Accum	469.00	497.80	- 7.90	0.27
Intl Growth Inc	220.80	234.70†	- 3.50	2.48
Wwide Horizon Inc	99.78	106.00	- 0.80	0.42
SCOTTISH WIDOWS' FUND MGMT				
0131 668 3724				
Equity Inc	544.40	575.10	+ 8.90	2.01
-do- Accum	852.40	900.60	+ 14.00	2.01
UK High Inc #	282.40	277.29	+ 4.80	3.00
-do- Accum #	419.40	443.10	+ 7.70	3.00
Europe Inc	588.80	622.10	+ 4.30	0.31
Nth Amer Inc	390.80	412.80	- 1.00	0.05
Global Inc	283.80	299.80	+ 2.40	0.25
Global Acc	308.10	325.50	+ 2.60	0.25
UK Spec Sits Inc	153.80	162.40	+ 1.58	1.31
South East Asia	134.70	142.30	- 2.18	1.00
Cash Trust Inc	100.30	100.30	+ 0.10	6.76
UK Smllr Cos Inc	132.60	140.10	- 0.50	2.10
-do- Accum	142.00	150.00	- 0.50	2.10
Intl Bond Inc	89.21	93.70	- 0.06	3.63
International Strat	87.73	92.91	+ 1.30	0.65
SHARP (ALBERT E)				
Enquiries: 01277 227 300 Dealing: 01277 261 010				
European	193.10	203.20	- 0.80	0.28
Nth American	165.50	174.20	+ 0.40	
Intl Bond & Conv	132.60	140.50†	+ 0.30	5.63
Pooled Pension	270.00	290.30†	- 0.60	2.07
Smaller Cos	131.90	138.80†	+ 0.56	1.10
UK General #	200.80	211.40†	- 0.60	1.99
Far Eastern	59.25	62.37	- 1.15	0.60
SINGER & FRIEDLANDER INVESTMENT FUNDS LTD				
0171 626 8226				
Continental	109.40	115.40	- 1.10	1.00
Global Gwth	89.61	94.06	- 0.82	1.00
Inv Tst Port	61.83	68.39	+ 0.73	2.20
Managed	1485.75	1558.42	+ 3.61	2.20

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Pref Inc #	109.70	117.40	+ 0.30	6.20
Smaller Cos	287.50	305.80	+ 0.88	0.90
Ireland SIB Recognised				
UK Equity Inc ‡	106.88	..	+ 0.65	4.45
Sterling Reserve ‡	102.24	..	+ 0.12	5.33
Corporate Inc ‡	103.59	..	+ 0.70	5.15
Tai Pan ‡	76.54	..	- 3.87	...
Aztec ‡	79.79	.	+ 2.44	..
Amer Gth Fund ‡	186.27	..	- 1.70	
European ‡	190.21	..	- 1.76	3.00
Global Bond ‡	80.28	.	- 0.71	7.00
Samurai ‡	40.64	..	- 0.28	..
UK Growth ‡	123.81	.	+ 0.64	2.64
UK Emrg Leaders ‡	97.50	.	+ 0.23	2.86
Investment Trust ‡	120.41	.	+ 1.38	1.71
The Football Fd ‡	63.52	.	+ 0.28	
Reserve Roll Up ‡	102.11	..	+ 0.33	..
Dmark Reserve ‡	102.11	...	- 0.97	3.82
SMITH & WILLIAMSON UT MGRS				
0171 637 5377				
American	539.90	571.30†	- 6.80	.
Capital	166.60	176.30	+ 2.20	1.22
Cash	101.39	101.39	+ 0.10	6.69
European	189.60	200.50	+ 4.50	0.18
Far Eastern	133.00	140.60	+ 0.90	.
Growth	200.30	211.90	+ 2.50	1.19
Income #	167.70	177.40	+ 1.40	4.53
Magnum	172.70	182.70†	+ 2.50	1.25
Smlr Secs	638.40	675.80	+ 22.00	0.30
Thoroughbred	202.20	213.90	+ 2.90	1.23
SOVEREIGN UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0800 72 11 093				
Credit Prince	61.85	65.80	+ 0.08	7.00
Ethical	90.32	96.59	- 0.78	1.09
European Growth	96.85	102.79	- 0.90	0.00
Income #	70.31	75.19	- 0.10	4.38
Intl Growth	118.50	123.40	- 0.70	0.15
Managed	104.30	110.50	- 0.30	0.41
UK Growth	86.63	92.65	- 0.25	1.38
STANDARD LIFE UNIT TRUSTS				
0800 33 33 53				
Standard Life Fund Mngmt Ltd				
Global Advtg Inc	51.59	51.85	+ 0.54	1.08
Global Advtg Acc	56.64	58.93	+ 0.59	1.08
Income Advtg Inc	43.89	44.11†	+ 0.06	3.43
Income Advtg Acc	53.36	53.63	+ 0.80	3.43
UK Equity Gth Acc	123.00	130.40	+ 2.10	1.18
Premier Inc Inc	53.27	55.14†	+ 0.11	6.28
Premier Inc Acc	61.22	63.37	+ 0.13	6.28
Managed Acc	70.88	75.14	+ 0.60	1.89
UK Eq Hi Inc Inc	51.78	54.89	+ 0.78	3.46
UK Eq Hi Inc Acc	71.54	75.84	+ 1.06	3.46
UK Smlr Cos Acc	55.00	58.31	+ 1.10	0.15
Standard Life Tst Mngmt Ltd				
UK Equity Gen Acc	101.30	107.70	+ 1.90	1.44
UK Equity Gen Inc	71.31	75.77	+ 1.34	1.44
Gilt & Fxd Int Inc	34.30	36.26	+ 0.04	6.10
Oseas Lrg Co Acc	371.70	403.40	+ 1.10	3.56
Nth American Acc	73.39	77.98	- 0.17	0.01
Pacific Basin	31.65	33.63	+ 0.27	1.57
European Acc	67.93	72.18	+ 0.96	0.02
Japan Acc	21.07	22.39	+ 0.07	0.75
STATE STREET UT MGMT LTD				
0171 344 7000				
Global A (NZ$)	5.489	5.831	+ 0.14	1.80
US Eqts (US$)	4.626	4.899	- 0.05	0.82
Far East Eqts (yen)	230.40	244.80	..	..
FT Europe	195.60	207.70	+ 3.60	0.99
FT N Amer (US$)	3.855	4.085	- 0.08	..
FT Japan (yen)	118.40	125.10	+ 0.50	.
FT Asia ExJap (US$)	2.186	2.322	- 0.12	0.97
STEWART IVORY UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0131 226 3271				
American	600.80	634.40	- 5.50	...
British #	1532.80	1621.50	+ 2.00	2.22
Emging Mkts	154.20	164.10	- 0.50	0.55
Euro Gwth Inc	114.90	121.60	- 0.30	.
Euro Small Co	60.49	64.42	- 1.27	
Japan	82.69	87.71	- 0.98	..
Asia Pacific	312.20	332.50	- 15.30	1.79
-do- Accum	339.70	361.80	- 16.60	1.79
Inv Trust Acc	321.80	341.10	- 0.80	1.02
Mngd Equity	230.70	244.10	- 0.40	1.94
Mngd Cash	96.45	96.45	+ 0.10	6.71
SUN LIFE OF CANADA UT MGRS LTD				
0800 525 725				
Asia Pacific	15.84	16.88	+ 0.35	1.57
Corp Bd Gilt Inc	104.79	111.48	- 0.05	6.41
Corp Bd & Gilt Acc	116.00	123.41	- 0.05	6.41
European	63.32	67.37	+ 0.77	0.34
Japan	27.12	28.86	+ 0.71	0.01
Managed Assets	167.36	178.00	+ 2.41	2.03
North American	58.65	62.40	+ 0.10	0.01
Smlr Co's Inc	39.94	42.49†	+ 0.21	1.77
Smlr Co's Acc	44.67	47.53	+ 0.23	1.77
UK Growth Inc	81.73	86.95	+ 1.62	1.71
UK Growth Acc	94.47	100.51	+ 1.88	1.71
Extra Income #	56.55	60.49†	+ 0.94	4.13
Worldwide Gth	46.34	49.56†	+ 0.41	0.41
SUN LIFE TRUST MGMT LTD				
Enquiries: 0117 989 9000				
Discretionary	60.96	64.85	+ 0.44	.
UK Income Inc	76.28	81.15	+ 0.20	2.54
Mngd Extra Inc Inc #	39.48	41.76	+ 0.14	6.31
Mngd High Yld Inc	110.10	117.10†	- 0.20	3.66
Mngd Inc/Gth Inc	104.10	110.70†	..	2.80
UK Smaller Cos	44.26	47.09	- 0.21	1.94
Pacific Gth Port	34.38	36.57	- 0.60	0.72
TSB UNIT TRUSTS				
01264 345 794				
American	381.05	403.23	- 1.76	...
-do- Accum	419.71	444.14	- 1.93	
Brit Growth	151.07	159.86	+ 0.27	1.38
-do- Accum	191.40	202.53	+ 0.34	1.38
European	152.46	161.34	+ 0.28	
-do- Accum	162.85	172.32	+ 0.29	
Extra Income #	261.32	276.52	- 0.01	3.87
-do- Accum #	500.02	529.12	- 0.01	3.87
Smaller Cos	96.40	102.01	+ 0.09	1.00
-do- Accum	111.38	117.86	+ 0.11	1.00
General	437.44	462.89	+ 0.33	1.54
-do- Accum	951.31	1006.69	+ 0.72	1.54
Premier Income	55.47	57.78	+ 0.04	5.65
-do- Accum	147.82	153.98	+ 0.10	5.85
Income #	467.51	494.72†	+ 0.15	3.03
-do- Accum #	1131.90	1197.78†	+ 0.35	3.03
Pacific	264.21	279.59	- 2.07	2.04
-do- Accum	277.82	283.78	- 2.18	2.04
International	698.52	739.18	- 1.37	0.16
-do- Accum	923.04	976.77	- 1.80	0.16
Nat Resources	116.88	123.69	+ 1.17	0.77
Sktd Opps	154.86	163.87	+ 0.09	0.92
-do- Accum	206.33	218.34	+ 0.12	0.92
Environmental Inv	100.90	106.77	+ 0.27	0.81
Selector	88.62	93.78†	+ 1.24	1.32
-do- Accum	104.85	110.95†	+ 1.46	1.32
High Income #	84.64	89.56†	- 1.37	3.80
-do- Accum #	121.77	128.86†	+ 0.05	3.80
Intl Income	63.31	67.00	- 0.26	4.31
-do- Accum	87.77	92.88	- 0.37	4.31
Selector Income	77.56	82.08	- 0.01	3.88
-do- Accum	102.17	108.12	- 0.02	3.88
TU FUND MANAGERS LIMITED				
0181 667 1016				
British	504.37	530.91	+ 0.32	2.08
European	96.97	101.54	- 0.34	1.21
TEMPLETON UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0131 469 4000				
Glob Growth Inc	260.55	275.51	- 0.31	2.83
Glob Growth Acc	304.88	322.75	- 0.13	2.83
Glob Balncd Inc	209.00	221.17	- 0.35	3.78
Glob Balncd Acc	261.59	278.81	- 0.44	3.78
Value Tst Inc	158.40	167.62†	- 1.29	2.53
Value Tst Acc	181.03	191.57†	- 1.48	2.53
THORNHILL UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0171 629 0682				
Capital	113.30	120.40	+ 0.30	0.58
International	77.27	82.09	- 1.65	.

For Thornton see Dresdner RCM

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
THREADNEEDLE INVESTMENTS				
Client Serv: 0800 0683000 Inter Serv: 0800 0684000				
Conversion Helpline: 0500 386227 (Unit and Oeic)				
Threadneedle Investment Services				
Managed Income	49.32	51.84†	+ 0.05	3.66
Cstl Mg Gth Acc	49.87	52.21	+ 0.06	4.14
Bal Mgd Gth Acc	48.04	50.30	- 0.14	2.63
Adv Mgd Gth Acc	46.48	48.65	- 0.25	0.89
Threadneedle Investment Funds (OEIC)				
Retail Shares (Class 1)				
UK				
UK Corporate Bd ‡	52.66	.	+ 0.02	6.94
UK Equity Inc ‡	52.75	.	+ 0.09	3.56
UK Growth ‡	51.80	..	+ 0.11	1.34
UK Gwth & Inc ‡	47.98	.	+ 0.10	2.40
UK Money Secs ‡	50.17	..	+ 0.05	7.13
UK Monthly Inc #	48.82	..	+ 0.08	3.65
UK Select Gwth ‡	52.00	.	+ 0.09	1.51
UK Smaller Cos ‡	52.21		- 0.18	0.91
International				
Amer Gwth Acc ‡	47.25	...	- 1.00	0.10
European Growth ‡	48.72	...	- 0.72	0.06
FE&Jap Gwth Acc ‡	31.91	...	- 0.48	
Global Bond ‡	50.56		- 0.35	6.91
Japan Gwth Acc ‡	32.49		- 1.26	.
Specialist				
Amer Sel Gwth ‡	47.83	...	- 0.85	0.04
Amer Sm Cos Gth ‡	50.09	..	- 0.92	.
Asia Growth ‡	33.39	..	- 0.34	0.19
Euro Sel Gwth ‡	46.85	...	- 0.65	0.06
Euro Sm Cos Gth ‡	49.78		- 1.15	...
Gth Sel Gth Acc ‡	44.76	...	- 0.45	0.11
Jap Sm Cos Gth ‡	47.53		- 1.08	..
Latin Amer Gth ‡	48.19		+ 1.64	..
Institutional Shares (Class 2) (£500,000 min)				
UK				
UK Equity Inc #	52.82	..	+ 0.07	4.20
UK Growth ‡	51.87	...	+ 0.12	1.89
UK Gwth & Inc ‡	48.01		+ 0.10	2.98
UK Inst Gwth ‡	51.79	.	+ 0.11	1.70
UK Oseas Engs ‡	50.27		- 0.08	1.00
UK Select Gwth ‡	52.04		+ 0.10	2.07
UK Sm Cos Gwth ‡	52.26	..	- 0.17	1.44
International				
Amer Gwth Acc ‡	47.33	...	- 1.00	0.60
Euro Gwth Acc ‡	48.80	..	- 0.72	0.58
FE & Jap Gth Acc ‡	31.96	...	- 0.45	.
Global Bond ‡	50.57	...	- 0.36	7.41
Japan Growth Acc ‡	32.53	...	- 1.26	...
Specialist				
Amer Sel Gwth ‡	47.91	.	- 0.85	0.54
Amer Sm Cos Gth ‡	50.10	...	- 0.91	...
Asia Growth Acc ‡	33.47	..	- 0.34	0.69
Euro Sel Gth Acc ‡	46.77	...	- 0.64	0.58
Euro Sm Cos Gth ‡	49.78	..	- 1.14	.
Jap Sm Cos Gth ‡	47.55	..	- 1.09	..
Latin Amer Gth ‡	48.23		- 1.65	
UNITED FRIENDLY UT MGRS LTD				
01277 690 321				
UK Eq Inc Acc	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
UK Equity Gwth	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
European	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Nth American	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Far Eastern	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Money	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Fixed Interest	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Index Linked Gilt	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
VIRGIN DIRECT PPS LTD				
0345 959595				
Income Trust	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Pens Growth	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Pens Inc Protect	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
UK Index Tracking	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
WAVERLEY UNIT TST MGMT				
0131 225 1551				
Australasian Gold	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Pacific Basin	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Global Bond (US$)	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Penny Share	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Japan Smlr Cos	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
WHITTINGDALE UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
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Short Dat Gilt	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
US Govt Bd (US$)	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Gilt Income	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Gilt Growth	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Sterling Bond	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
WOOLWICH UT MGRS LTD				
0181 298 4000				
Intl Mgd	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
UK Stockmarket	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Corporate Bd Inc	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Do Accum	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Source: FT Information

* Yield expressed as CAR (Compound Annual Return); † Ex dividend; ‡ Middle price; # Periodic Charge deducted from capital; @ Exit Charge.

ISA NO GOOD 50

Readers give their views on individual savings accounts

WEEKEND MONEY

GO FOR BROKER 53

How to select the right person for your deals

The furore over the Paymaster General and Orion Trust has thrust trusts into the spotlight. **Gavin Lumsden** reports

Taking rather a lot on trust

Geoffrey Robinson, the millionaire Paymaster General who enraged Middle England with his announcement of the individual savings account two weeks ago, could save millions of pounds in capital gains tax because of the unusual circumstances of the Orion offshore trust of which he is a beneficiary.

This is unlikely to endear him to the 500,000 people who learnt that they may have to pay tax on their savings over £50,000 once the Isa is introduced in 1999, particularly as most will be unable to retrace the route that led him to his good fortune. To understand why, you have to go back to basics and look at why most trusts are set up, how they are used and who is involved.

In essence trusts are a way of transferring ownership of a property into the hands of a trustee who will manage it for the benefit of someone else. There are three people involved; the settlor who sets up the trust, the beneficiary who benefits from it and the trustee who is obliged to manage the trust in good faith for the beneficiary.

By splitting the legal and beneficial ownership of a property, trusts are useful for people planning their wills or wishing to provide income for members of their family. Trusts can also provide continuity at death by avoiding the complication and expense of probate (determining to whom a property belongs).

Zealous entrepreneurs have been known to use trusts to protect the businesses they have established from being squandered by their descendants. Less honourably, they are often used to obscure the ownership of a property. Partners preparing to divorce their spouses sometimes use trusts as a *hideaway for assets they do not* want to split, for instance.

Controversy has dogged trusts since their earliest days. From the 13th century they enabled *Franciscan friars*, who were otherwise pledged to lead lives of poverty, to live in grand properties bestowed on them by wealthy individuals who re*tained* the legal ownership without the benefit.

The latest furore has naturally focused on how trusts can be used to avoid paying tax. How*ever, it is possible to overplay* this aspect. Although trusts do shift the liability for tax from one person to the other, at the end of the day, someone, whether it is the settlor, trustee or beneficiary, will pay tax.

Even offshore, where UK tax rules do not apply, tax avoidance is not the only reason for setting up a trust. Wealthy individuals with interests around the world will coordinate their affairs through an offshore tax haven for simplicity as much as reducing their tax bill. Indeed since 1991 there have been no tax advantages for UK residents either setting up or benefiting from trusts offshore.

Maurice Fitzpatrick of Chantrey Vellacott said: "It is a widespread myth that if an ordinary UK domiciled resident puts money in an offshore trust it will escape all forms of tax." If an offshore trust sells an asset it will be the settlor resident in the UK who foots any capital gains tax. Similarly, beneficiaries living in the UK will pay tax on any income from the trust. Mr Robinson and the Orion Trust are an exception which we will come to later.

There are four basic types of trust, each with different tax implications. Generally speaking, the more flexible a trust is, the more involved the tax process becomes. It is essential to seek the help of a professional adviser, such as an accountant or solicitor. Costs vary but for an onshore trust are generally about £1,000 to £2000 and double this for an offshore trust.

■ **ABSOLUTE TRUSTS:** These are the simplest. Here the *beneficiary (or beneficiaries) is* named from the start and has an absolute right to income and capital from the trust, usually from the age of 18. They are also *liable to pay the tax. Once set* up, the trust is irrevocable.

Settlors can also be beneficiaries. For example, government ministers, such as Geoffrey Robinson, set up so-called blind trusts to manage their shares and business interests before they take office. By putting their assets under the management of a trustee, ministers hope to avoid any accusations of conflict of interest, although they benefit from what the trustee does on their behalf. Unfortunately for Mr Robinson, the media spotlight has not focused on the Geoffrey Robinson Per*sonal Settlement as his blind* trust is called.

■ **INTEREST IN POSSESSION TRUSTS** are used by *settlors wishing to give away* the right to income but not necessarily the right to capital. Similar trusts were enjoyed by the Franciscan friars. Today, *they are more frequently set up* for grandchildren. For example, grandparents can put their house in trust, allowing the beneficiaries, their grandchildren, to live there rent-free or rent out the property and receive the rental income. What the grandchildren cannot do is sell the house and take the money as they have no right to the capital. However, trustees are often given wide powers when they are appointed so they can choose when and to whom of the beneficiaries to give some of the capital. With these trusts the tax burden *shifts to the trustee* who pays income and capital gains taxes at the basic rate, although the use of indexation and annual exemptions will reduce the lat*ter bill. Any income received by* beneficiaries will be accompanied by a tax credit: this means non-taxpayers can reclaim the tax, basic-rate payers have nothing to pay, while those on the higher rate pay the difference between the basic and higher rates.

■ **DISCRETIONARY TRUSTS:** Any benefit paid to the beneficiaries is entirely at the discretion of the trustees in this specialist trust. Because it is unclear where the tax liability *will fall*, the *Inland Revenue* charges a punitive rate of 34 per cent on the trust. Inheritance tax may have to be paid by settlors when transferring their *assets into the trust or by the* trustees on each ten-year anniversary or when funds leave the trust. The Orion Trust is a discretionary trust. It plays to different rules because its settlor was a non-UK citizen living abroad.

■ **ACCUMULATION AND MAINTENANCE TRUSTS:** The most popular trust, this structure is used by settlors wishing to bestow income and/or capital on their children or grandchildren when they reach a certain *age* (between 18 and 25). Provided there are two or more beneficiaries sharing a common grandparent and that income from the trust is accu*mulated, or spent on the beneficiaries'* education or maintenance, this is the most *tax-efficient form of trust*. Settlors escape inheritance tax if they live for seven years after establishing the trust.

Why is Mr Robinson's case an exception? The Orion Trust in Guernsey, of which Mr Robinson is a potential beneficiary, does not conform to any of the above tax rules, not because it is in an offshore haven, but because the woman who set it up, Joska Bourgeois, *was a non-UK resident and* therefore outside the scope of UK tax law. Because she died in 1994, Mme Bourgeois, a Belgian national living in Switzer*land, has effectively put Orion* beyond the reaches of the UK taxman for ever.

Because of this, Orion can grow its assets tax-free and *distribute* the capital to beneficiaries in the UK who have no tax to pay. The implications of this for Mr Robinson were enormous when last year he was given the right to buy 9.8 million shares in TransTec, a company he founded. Mr Robinson could have subscribed to the shares but would have had to pay tax on any increase in their value whenever he came to sell them. He could also have sold his right to a third party, but that would have denied him the benefit of growth in the shares' value.

Instead, Mr Robinson sold *the right to buy the shares to* Stenbell, another company he owned, which sold them on again to Orion. By transferring them to Orion he could be *confident that a trust of which* he was a potential beneficiary could benefit from the growth in the shares free of tax. According to Mr Fitzpatrick, it is "a classic case study in how to use an offshore trust".

The effect of this could be dramatic if the TransTec shares continue to *perform*. In the past two years they have doubled in value. Orion now owns £13 million of the company's shares. If they were to double again the trust will have gained £13 million. Ordinarily, this would produce a £5 million capital gains tax bill — but not for Orion or Mr Robinson or any other beneficiary of the trust.

Since 1991 there have been no tax advantages for UK residents setting up or benefiting from offshore trusts

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From the 13th century, trusts enabled Franciscan friars to live in grand properties bestowed on them by wealthy individuals who retained the legal ownership without the benefit

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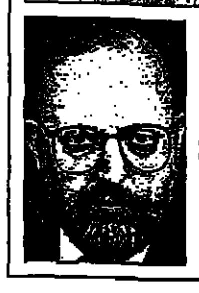


GRAHAM SEARJEANT

We can dream. For a generation, there has been wide agreement that taxes on savings and investment should be as neutral as possible. Dream on. As Gordon Brown strives to reform the tax system, if only because it is there, tax threatens to dominate investment again until he has tired of playing with his fiscal powers.

All taxes distort people's choices, distort markets and therefore distort the economy. But the quest for neutrality is not a plea to be let off, if only because that means higher taxes and worse distortions elsewhere in the system. It is merely a desire for our rational investment choices to be allowed to follow as closely as possible the economic returns available on different kinds of assets and enterprises.

In much of the postwar period, tax considerations drove investors' decisions, along with exchange controls and inflation. By the 1970s, tax breaks or tax avoidance had become the dominant, often the only, selling point for investment schemes. They cloaked high costs and poor returns on life policies, corruption at Lloyd's and crookery offshore. Investors knew they should never choose investments primarily for tax reasons. But taxes made such a difference that you could not ignore them.

Nigel Lawson did the most of any recent Chancellor to reduce tax distortions in the economy, by cutting tax breaks to pay for cuts in tax rates. He even started on investment. Life assurers have never forgiven him for axeing premium relief, and their inclusion in individual savings accounts is poor recompense, unless they use Isa policies as loss-leaders. By contrast, one purpose of introducing personal equity plans and changes in tax rules for unit trusts was to allow at least some investment in shares to be more comparable to endowment or pension plans.

Reforms came to a shuddering stop, however, when Lord Lawson of Blaby, as he now is, rolled up his sleeves to tackle the generous reliefs available to pension schemes. The industry fought back and political resistance was too great. Pension schemes are such an inflexible, unattractive proposition that few would sign up unless they were bribed by the Inland Revenue, if not employers.

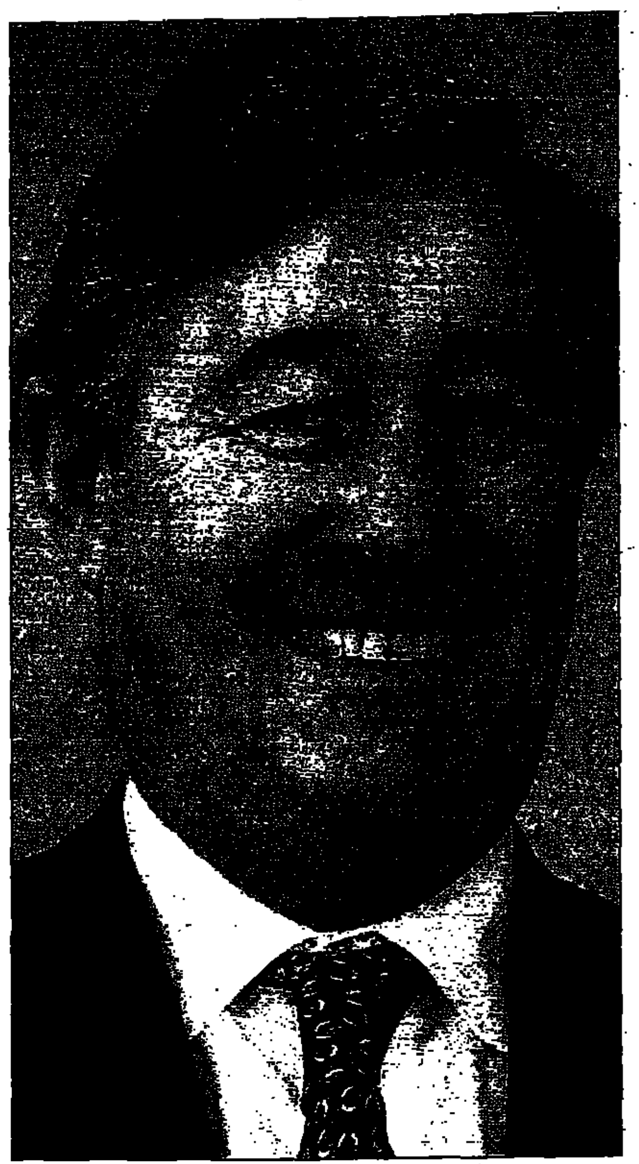
Can it be a coincidence that mis-selling of tax-advantaged personal pensions swiftly became the biggest investment scandal of the 1990s? Even now, the Government faces an awkward choice between costly extra tax rebates or legal compulsion if it is to get its planned stakeholder pension off the ground.

What investors really, really want from successive Chancellors is to be allowed to roll up the returns on their savings without paying tax. Incentives to put money aside or tax liabilities when it is time to turn investment into consumption are a matter for the Chancellor of the time.

For many, Mr Brown has already cut returns on shares relative to bonds, deposits or property. But that aim should inform any further changes. Minor adjustments could, for instance, make unit and investment trusts true roll-up investment vehicles without having to use fancy techniques. Similar vehicles that allow investors to switch or choose their own shares would usefully compensate for loss of Peps, even if returns are taxed on withdrawal.

To judge from the latest leak, the Treasury has backed away from its pre-election plan to tax short and long-term capital gains differently. That is a mixed blessing. CGT is a malign tax but a necessary one. That is why it is so complex and why reforms to make it fairer and simpler are so elusive. For most modest stock market investors, the annual tax-free allowance has eased distortion. The Chancellor should resist the high temptation to axe it, but investors should not bet on him doing so and should plan accordingly.

The next reform zone is inheritance tax. There too, Labour's pre-election prejudice is to tax the rich more, the very approach that has forced successive Chancellors to supply more loopholes the richer you are and make the tax take small. This tax cries out for the Lawson approach. A 10 per cent rate with few exceptions would minimise distortion, hurt less and raise more. Again, do not bet on it. More likely, tax consultants and offshore centres will be the winners.



Geoffrey Robinson took responsibility for the account

Protest grows at Isa plan

Two weeks ago we asked readers of Weekend Money if they were interested in taking part in the Government's consultation procedure regarding the new individual savings account. The answer has been a resounding "yes" as we have received hundreds of letters from all over the United Kingdom, many of them covering the same themes.

Many commented on the lack of thought that has gone into how this major piece of legislation will affect the majority of retired, and soon to be retired, ordinary working people and middle-class professionals who have been saving towards their retirement.

Others pointed out that £50,000 is not a lot of money to fund healthcare and possibly residential care as they grow older. Others agreed that the idea that the poorest in society will suddenly be able to find the cash to afford them, because Isa products will be sold in supermarkets, is particularly fallacious. Here we print a selection from the letters we have received.

We feel betrayed by new Labour

From Mr C.J.B. Nitsch

Sir, I write as a 60-plus who retired recently after a full career in the Services and ten years working as an insurance auditor. My wife and I are one of the many families who have sought to work hard, educate and provide opportunities for our children, and to save sensibly for retirement and to be independent of state assistance in old age.

With this as background, I feel that we can not be alone in being dismayed and disillusioned by Labour's consultative proposals for Isas to replace Tessas and Peps from April 1, 1999. In good faith and encouraged by successive governments we, like many others, have used these accounts to build up our savings.

With the limits on permitted subscriptions, there was never any hint that the accounts could or would lose the tax concessions which made them attractive to the general saver. To propose, as Labour does, a £50,000 limit on transfers of savers' existing Peps and Tessas to Isas is a cynical betrayal of people's trust.

I hope that you will campaign strongly against this injustice. If Labour wishes to insist that Peps and Tessas should cease, surely the only honest way is to stop further accounts being opened or additional funds invested from a particular date — but without, in effect, penalising those who have save through these mediums in recent years.

Yours faithfully,
C. NITSCH,
The Hermitage,
Easton Royal,
Pewsey, Wiltshire.

Double the Isa limit

From Dr Ron Law

Sir, The sum permitted within the Isa should be at least doubled, especially in the case of pensioners, for two reasons.

First, we face a demographic time bomb, with the number surviving to 85 years and increasing by 74 per cent to 1,767,000 over the next 35 years (national population projections from the Office for National Statistics). This exponential growth in the extremely old will place an increasing physical and financial burden on the community. This frail group can only come from the cohort of those who reach pensionable age. Another arm of the Government has recognised this problem within the past few days by the appointment of a royal commission to look into extreme age and dependency.

Secondly, public services are bleeding experienced professional staff as teachers, police, doctors and other civil servants take early retirement, seize their lump sums and often return to part-time jobs. This loss of experience is a severe problem, especially as professional training has lengthened and the number of useful years has declined at both ends of working life. To help to overcome this, those retiring aged 60 or later should be allowed to top up their Isa by an increasing proportion of their lump sum up to a certain limit.

Yours faithfully,
RON LAW,
1 Beechworth Close, NW3.

How many Peps?

From Mr Peter Marshall

Sir, One issue that appears to have been overlooked in the Government's numbers game is not whether 750,000 or 350,000 people currently have Peps and Tessas of over £50,000 but what this number is likely to be in 18 months' time (October 1999). Based on the recent popularity of Peps and Tessas over the past three to four years I would not be surprised if it was in the order of several million. Anyone with £30,000 currently invested could expect this to be well in excess of £50,000 based on further contributions and current growth rates. I wonder what the Government's estimate of people with £30,000 is or have they not thought this through like the rest of their proposals?

Yours faithfully,
PETER MARSHALL,
12 Greville Park Avenue,
Ashtead,
Surrey.

Is there a hidden agenda?

From Mr Scott Allen

Sir, Regarding Isas, in general, the press has been excellent and I would add my vote to any lobbying *The Times* can do. I have tried to contact the Inland Revenue for its free booklet but without success. Lines are obviously jammed.

Politically, the Conservatives lost power because they were held responsible for the decline in house prices and mass redundancies of the middle-aged. They were punished accordingly because the electorate would not forgive and certainly did not forget.

Now Gordon Brown seems willing to risk losing the re-election of Labour by tampering with the assets of the voters that got him in. He has already hit pensions, now he has sighted Peps and Tessas; no doubt followed by a big hit on capital gains tax. He is doing a good job of alienating Labour from the middle masses.

Tessas are simple and risk-free. They attract genuine savers. Why kill them? To attract more savers the Government requires instant access — but that means lower rates of interest. Why not relax the rules on existing Tessas and retain them? The Isa is a major hit on the concept of Tessas.

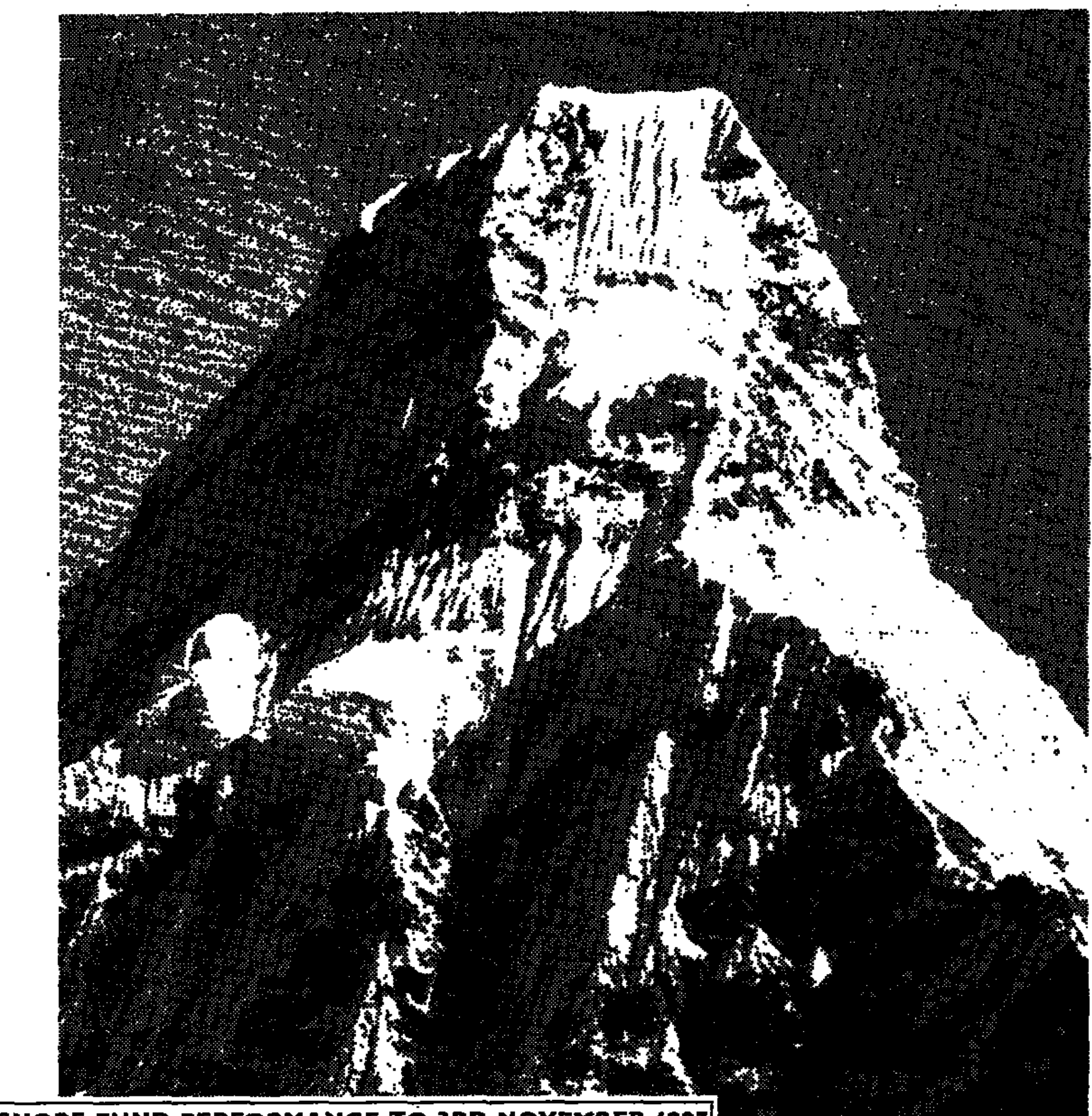
Peps' expenses pretty well nullify the tax credit, so these become a vehicle for rolling up capital gains free of tax. The Isa appears to be no different apart from the £50,000 limit, but is your £50,000 permitted to grow "ad infinitum" as it would in a Pep? The cashflow and capital growth prospects from £50,000 would not be adequate, in any case, to match expenses growing inexorably with inflation. If the intent is to make Isa a quasi-substitute for a pension the limit needs to be at least £100,000.

However, I also see a hidden agenda. The Inland Revenue spends about £44 million to collect £1.1 billion in capital gains tax paid by 100,000 affluent souls. There is no way that a Labour Government is going to let these people off the hook even if it does cost a fortune to get them. They are more likely to try to collect more by eliminating capital gains allowances outside Isas. That mandates investors to get into the Isa.

If CG allowances do disappear, the new incentive is to roll up unrealised gains. No tax is payable until you die, so the IR still won't necessarily increase its yield. My advice to the Government would be to cancel Peps and Isas — retain the tax credits instead of giving them to the industry, and just abolish capital gains tax. That would save them money on CG chasing and yield £800 million in tax credits that they return via Peps.

Keep a new flexible Tessa, by all means, for the "new" savers the Government is so keen on. But remember, you can only save if income exceeds expenditure and no one seems to be considering this.

Yours faithfully,
SCOTT ALLEN,
16 Chervil Way,
Burghfield Common,
Berkshire.



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Emerging Companies	8.4.85	+750.9	1 out of 30	+135.9
American Growth	21.4.84	+1356.2	1 out of 12	+126.2
Far Eastern Growth	8.11.86	+336.9	1 out of 13	+88.8
Japanese Growth	30.11.91	+0.6	13 out of 72	+4.9
European Growth	8.11.86	+267.5	5 out of 6	+134.9
UK Growth	24.10.87	+418.3	1 out of 26	+176.4
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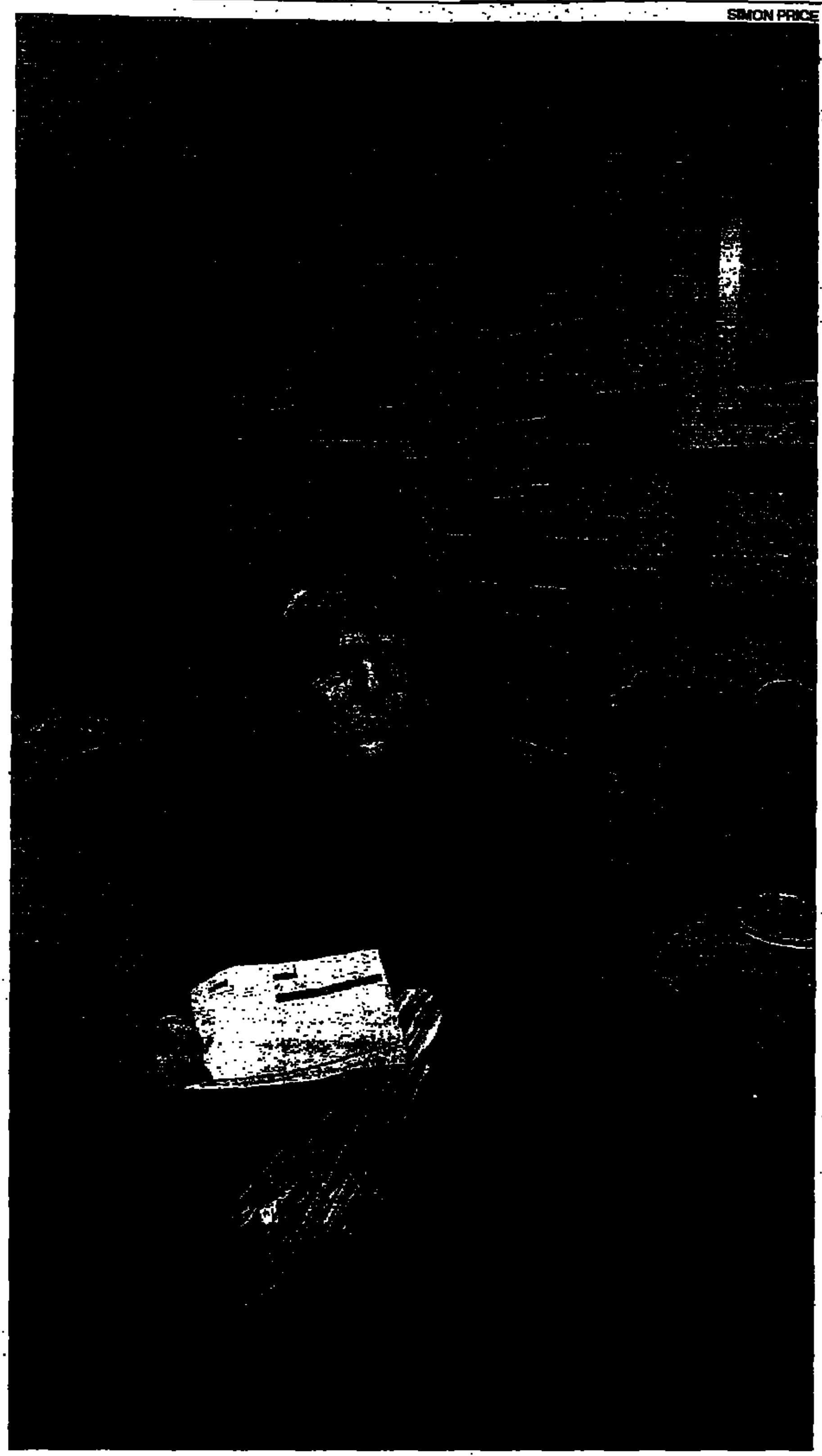
SIMON PRICE

Whatever the Government's reasons, being blocked from transferring has thrown Weekend Money reader Fiona MacMillan into despair. She has been pinning her hopes on being able to resolve a costly and long running dispute with the freeholder *of her one-bedroom West London flat through the tribunal. The company which owns the* freehold started court proceedings two years ago after she and her fellow leaseholders held out against paying excessive charges for minimal services.

She said: "The property wasn't insured for six months and we had to do the gardening and cleaning ourselves." But the others were forced to give in after their lenders put pressure on them to settle. Ms MacMillan held out and her landlord is now trying to repossess her flat and sue her for unpaid service charges and ground rent of £3,192. So far the legal bills total £12,544. Her service charges have mounted up to £6,300. Her lender attempted to help her fight but succeeded in incurring legal fees of £11,000, which it has added to Ms MacMillan's mortgage. She and her neighbours were keen to buy the freehold to rid themselves of the landlord but the company demanded that they pay the arrears first. She is now waiting for witness statements from her landlord prior to going to a county court trial.

Leaseholder hopes of avoiding huge legal bills dashed

The Government has failed to *help tenants to* contest service charges, says **Sara McConnell**

Owners of leasehold flats *fighting* long-running battles with their landlords through the courts over service charge bills have had their hopes dashed of avoiding huge legal costs.

Thousands of leaseholders believed that they would be able to transfer their cases from the county court to a leasehold valuation tribunal when tribunals began handling service-charge disputes at the beginning of September. Unlike county courts, which previously dealt with such cases, tribunals have no power to award costs and leaseholders would not risk having to pay their landlord's legal bills. In the county court, unscrupulous landlords have frequently employed expensive lawyers and run up large bills. Some leases are worded so that the landlord can reclaim legal fees via the service charge, even if the leaseholders win.

The previous Government was forced to give tribunals new powers as part of a radical overhaul of leasehold law last year, after revelations of widespread abuse of leaseholders by unscrupulous landlords.

New laws were intended to strengthen homeowners' rights to fight excessive service charges, poor maintenance and intimidation of those refusing to pay up.

But the Government has now made clear that cases *started in the county court* before September 1 cannot be transferred to the leasehold valuation tribunal and that judges will have no discretion to refer cases already before the county court. *Angry* solicitors and leasehold experts claim that this is a complete reversal of the Government's original intention to free leaseholders from the fear of going to court lest they *incur huge* costs.

Peter Haler, chief executive of Lease, the government-funded advisory service, says: "Everyone assumed people would be able to transfer. In the wording of the legislation there was nothing to indicate to the contrary. It was a surprise to us and everyone we have spoken to." Mr Haler already has half a dozen cases of leaseholders who have been deliberately holding out against their landlords in the county court because they believed they would be able to transfer.

Philip Freedman of Mishcon de Reya, solicitors, argues that the Government's move "is plainly operating in a very unfortunate way for those tenants who are the *subject* of court proceedings which landlords instituted before the order came into force".

Jim McKeever of Comptons, the London solicitors' *firm, says he has been* advising people all year that they should wait until they could *transfer to the tribunal.*

Mr McKeever is fighting on behalf of up to 15 leaseholders, who are now trapped into going through with their cases in the county *court. "They could face* huge legal costs. They may win but the cost of going to trial *in the first place is very* expensive."

He suspects that the Government tightened the rules to *avoid the possibility* that tribunals would be overwhelmed with transfers *from the courts.*

Other solicitors argue that transferring ongoing cases *from court to tribunal* would have amounted to retrospective legislation. David Marcus *of Franks Charlesley says* there could also have been problems allocating costs *which had already been* incurred in the county court.

"Once you transfer to the *LVT there are no costs, but* who will deal with existing costs? Until the case is decided no one knows who *is* liable."

[illegible]

- Since September 1, disputes over service charges, and repair of blocks of leasehold flats have been dealt with by the *LVT rather* than the county court. So far, few cases have been heard because leaseholders have to serve a notice on the landlord telling him they are taking him to a tribunal and giving him "reasonable *time*" to respond. This could mean up to two months.

- *Only cases started after September 1* can be heard by the LVT. Any cases started before then must continue in the county court.

- You can challenge service charges and/or the proposed cost of works on the ground that they are unreasonable. You do not have *to pay* any bills until and unless the LVT decides they are reasonable. You will not lose your home just for refusing to pay service charges, *unless they have been ruled* reasonable.

- You can apply to have a new manager appointed if your property is badly managed. There is nothing to stop you and your neighbours forming yourselves into a company and applying to manage your property yourselves. Forms for LVT applications are available from Lease on 0171-493 3116.

Come back, the upright man from the Pru

COMMENT

ANNE ASHWORTH

Personal Finance Editor

A gentle giant, committed only to serving its customers and a public menace, in whom policyholders put their trust at their peril. These were the contrasting faces of the Prudential that emerged from two documents sent out this week.

The Prudential's 1998 calendar is a celebration of the company's 150 years in the insurance business, illustrated with images from its advertising from the turn of the century to the Eighties. Pictures of the bonniest babies and the jauntiest of salesmen are accompanied with soothing slogans, such as "Security for Life with the Pru" and "Prudential Protection For Health and Home" The Prudential is shown as the family's guardian from fire, flood and untimely death.

Whether households would today feel such a sense of reassurance at the sight of an approaching man from the Pru is less certain. They might perhaps be tempted to keep their chequebook under lock and key, after even a glance at the new investment watchdog's chilling report into the conduct of the Prudential salesforce (see page 55).

The Financial Services Authority (FSA) charges the Pru with "persistent and serious breaches" of the rules. The report adds that the company's conduct "has fallen substantially below the standards that the public has a right to expect from a regulated firm". These are among the mildest of the FSA's comments. The smiling faced policyholders of 1934 would be distressed to know that their company has come to this.

The publication of the report at a time when the nation is awash with seasonal jollity gives its criticisms extra force. The Pru, anxious to give the appearance of having been shocked into action, is now assuring everyone that it will change its ways. No longer can it believe in the caring image constructed by its advertising copywriters.

The coming year will prove whether the Pru will keep this latest promise to reform its operations. Those inclined to feel cynical about such pledges should remember that there is now a strong commercial imperative to play by the rules. The Government's plans to launch stakeholder pensions and individual savings accounts (Isas) should provide a bounty for insurance groups like the Pru. However, ministers cannot but be aware of the strong evidence against allowing the insurers a slice of this market.

The highly influential Bacon & Woodrow pension survey indicates that many insurers are failing to pass on their own cost savings to policyholders. This means that many customers are paying an unacceptably high percentage of their premiums in costs and charges. Another study suggests that in the early years of policies, even the tax relief paid into plans may be swallowed by the insurer as a savoury to follow the tasty premium morsels.

The ferocity of the FSA's attack on the Pru also gives grounds for optimism. This new watchdog seems prepares to be tough. 1998 may not be a happy new year for the insurance industry.

Isa gotta go

ISA is not a euphonious acronym, unlike Tessa, with its note of seduction or Pep, which suggests get up and go. But it seems that even the name individual savings account may be under review like the rest of the proposals for this new tax-free scheme. This will come as a relief to Weekend Money readers whose letters suggest that whether you say it "Eesa" or "Isa", they should call the whole thing off.

Clare Stewart with a timely warning on legal rights for shoppers

Big spenders are well covered for Christmas

The average person this Christmas is expected to spend more than £650 on food, presents and entertainment. Men, according to the *American Express Consumer Spending Report* are more extravagant, and the survey estimates that about 25 per cent of men will spend more than £1,000 this year.

Whether you are a big spender or lean more towards the "Bah humbug" *school of spending*, splashing out on presents and preparations only to find *the head falls off your hard-won* Teletubby doll or the lights blow up on your Christmas tree can be both tiresome and costly.

But Christmas shoppers can take comfort from fairly comprehensive legislation that covers consumers if they buy items that are faulty or are not what they claim to be. "There are loopholes but people do have good legal rights. What's important is that people know what their rights are," said Phil Howells, senior lawyer at the Consumers' Association.

Before anyone goes charging into a shop to ask for their money back because they are not happy with a purchase, it is important, said Mr Howells, to distinguish between the shopper's legal rights and retailer's goodwill policy. This is the practice of some retailers to exchange an item or to offer a credit note, not because the product is faulty but because you do not like it or have changed your mind.

For a guide to your legal rights, the Office of Fair Trading publishes a free leaflet, *A Buyer's Guide*, which covers what you can do if you are *unhappy with a purchase.*

If you buy something and find that the item is damaged, *faulty, unsafe, defective or quite* simply not what you specifically asked for in the shop, you can *go back to the retailer* and ask for a your money back.

You may be offered a replace*ment or a credit note, says the* Office of Fair Trading but you do not have to accept either. You are entitled to a full refund. These statutory rights apply if you buy from a high street shop, mail order catalogue or a market stall. You cannot be fobbed off by a retailer claiming damaged goods are the responsibility of the maker. Your contract is with the retailer.

Similar rights apply if you buy sale goods or those in pre-Christmas promotions. The retailer cannot refuse a refund on *sale items if you are unhappy* with their quality, unless of course the goods were clearly *marked as imperfect. To com*plain about a purchase, it is important to act quickly. Once *you have accepted the goods* — loosely defined but usually taken to mean having kept them for a reasonable time — you may not be able to claim a replacement or refund.

If the shop where you bought the goods is not willing to refund your money, you can pursue the matter either by writing to the retailer's head office if it is part of a chain, alternatively contact the local trading standards officer or the Citizen's Advice Bureau.

If you are given a Christmas present that is found to be damaged or faulty, then, says the OFT, you may have to ask the buyer to pursue the claims for a replacement or compensation, or authorise you to complain on their behalf.

Christmas shopping on a credit card brings some added reassurance for consumers. Purchase cover offered free to cardholders means that you can claim if, for example, you to lose an item you have bought, drop it running for the bus home or if it is stolen.

Most such protection clauses apply for 90-100 days after purchase, and upper and lower *purchase limits may apply. If* you want to claim for accidental loss or damage after that 100-*day period, your best* best is your household insurance policy. Another safety net offered by *credit card purchases, which is* particularly useful for more expensive items, is provided by Section 75 of the Consumer Credit Act. If there is a problem with a purchase, both the suppliers and the credit card company are liable.

This means you can claim against one or other. If you want to claim for a damaged hi-fi system and then discover the maker has gone out of business, you will be able to claim against the credit card company instead. The limitations are that it applies to items between £100 and £30,000.

Christmas provides a golden opportunity for unscrupulous traders to do business says the Institute of Trading Standards Administration (Itsa). Beware counterfeit products, from computer games to perfume, sold at car boot sales or by street traders, as well as suspiciously cheap toys and dolls, which may dangerous if they do not conform to British standards. Stick to reputable retailers says Itsa, otherwise you may have problems after Christmas tracking down the sales person who sold you the bargain bottle of Chanel No 5 that curiously failed to impress your nearest and dearest.

A Buyer's Guide, available free from The Office of Fair Trading 0181 957 5058

When Christmas meant something: children gasp at a simple display of toys in December 1946

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Nationwide Bonus 60	5.6%	5.9%	6.3%

Source: Moneyfacts 20/11/97** †Inclusive of 1% p.a. bonus.

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THE TIMES MONEY INFORMATION SERVICE

Insurance rethink after airport fire

The recent fire at Heathrow has highlighted a gap that exists in the small print of many travel insurance policies. Most policies do not include "airport fire" among the criteria for cancellation or delay. Many Heathrow passengers, particularly those who missed connecting flights, will be furious when they discover that their travel insurer will not pay out.

In response to calls from travellers suffering long delays at Heathrow, Preferential travel insurance has added "damage to departure point" to its policy and policyholders will be able to claim against cancellation and/or delay caused by the fire. For Preferential claims information call 01702 422351.

■ Visitors to the new Goldfish Internet Website will now be able to apply for its credit card online. Current APR on the Goldfish card is 19.8 per cent for transactions, 21.1 per cent for cash advances. The site also has details of its reward scheme, which offers money-off perks such as free BT calls and vouchers for use at shops including Boots and Asda. Goldfish is planning to develop the site further to enable customers to manage their accounts online by checking balances and paying bills. *The Goldfish Website* can be found at www.goldfish.com.

■ Calls to the Consumer Credit Counselling Service, the debt advice service, rose by 25 per cent in January, followed by another 25 per cent increase in February. It is expected that the early months of 1998 will be no different. For the thousands of people who find themselves in debt every year, often through no fault of their own, the *Christmas period* can be a crisis point. The Consumer Credit Counselling Service is urging those in difficulty to seek advice before debts escalate by contacting their free debt helpline on 0800 138111.

■ The Inland Revenue has announced that its authorised mileage rates that will apply for business mileage in 1998-99, the tax year starting on April 6, 1998, will remain at their 1997-98 level. For a car engine between 1,501 and 2,000cc, this is 45p per mile on the first 4,000 miles in the tax year and 25p on each mile thereafter.

LIZANNE ROSE

GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS

ANNUAL INCOME

Rates as at December 18, 1997

	Investment (£)	Company	Standard Rate (%)
1 Year	1,000	Hambro Assured	5.45
	5,000	AIG Life	6.26
	20,000	GE Fin Assur	6.75
	50,000	Hambro Assured	6.80
2 Years	1,000	Hambro Assured	6.00
	3,000	ITT Lon & Edin	6.10
	5,000	AIG Life	6.17
	10,000	Hambro Assured	6.80
3 Years	1,000	Hambro Assured	5.75
	3,000	ITT London & Ed	6.30
	20,000	Hambro Assured	6.45
	50,000	Hambro Assured	6.55
4 Years	1,000	Hambro Assured	5.80
	3,000	*ITT London & Ed*	*6.15*
5 Years	1,000	Hambro Assured	5.86
	10,000	Hambro Assured	6.30

Source: Chamberlain de Broë 0171-434 4222. Net rates. Income and capital guaranteed. Early surrender. Terms vary. Monthly income may be available.

SAVERS' BEST BUYS

INSTANT ACCESS ACCOUNTS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Woolwich 0800 222200	Card Saver	Instant	£50	7.00	Yly
C&G 0800 742437	Inst Transfer	InstantB	£1,000	7.25	Yly
Legal & General Bank 0500 111200	Direct Access	Postal	£2,500	7.15	Yly
Alliance & Leicester 0845 6088860	First Cls Inst	Postal	£10,000	7.50	Yly

NOTICE ACCOUNTS & BONDS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Bristol & West 0800 202121	Postal 30	30 day p	£10,000	7.80	Yly
Northern Rock 0500 505000	Select 90	90 day p	£10,000	7.90	Yly
West Bromwich BS 0990 143668	Direct 90	90 day p	£25,000	8.00	Yly
Investec Bank (UK) 0171 203 1650	Base Plus	1 Year	£2,001	8.00	OM

FIRST TESSAS (TAX FREE)	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Sun Banking Corp 01438 744505		5 year	£3,000	7.85	Yly
Investec Bank (UK) 0171 203 1650	Premier+feeder	5 year	£9,000	7.85	Yly
Mansfield BS 01246 202055		5 year	£500	7.75	Yly
Bradford & Bingley BS 01274 555332		5 year	£1,000	7.75	Yly

CREDIT CARDS BEST BUYS

CREDIT CARDS	Card type	Interest per month	APR%	Fee per annum
Capital One Bank 0800 669000	Visa	0.64%N	7.90%N	Nil
Co-operative Bank 0800 109000	Advantage Visa	0.64%NC	7.90%N	Nil
Robert Fleming/S&P 0800 829100	MasterCard/Visa	1.00%	14.00%	£12

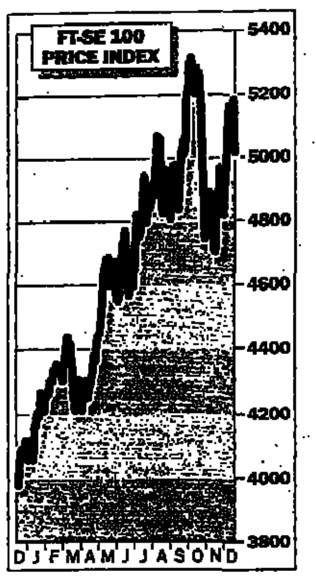
PERSONAL LOANS BEST BUYS

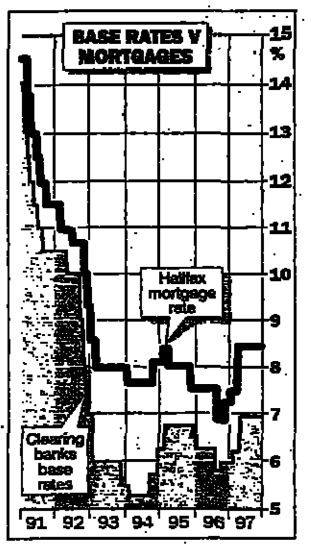
PERSONAL LOANS	APR	Monthly payment on £5,000 for 3yrs with insurance	no insurance
Direct Line 0181 680 9966	12.80%A	£183.75	£166.38
Capital One Direct 0800 216252	12.90%	£189.48	£166.54
Bank of Scot (Banking Dir) 0800 805805	12.90%	£191.55	£166.60

NB. A = Minimum age 22 years, B = Withdrawals via Bank Clearing System, C = no interest free period, F = Fixed Rate (all other rates variable), N = Introductory rate for a limited period, OM = Interest paid on maturity, P = By Post only

* RATES SHOWN ARE GROSS AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE
PLEASE CHECK RATES BEFORE INVESTING

Source: MoneyFacts, the Monthly Guide to Investment & Mortgage Rates (01692 500 677)





NATIONAL SAVINGS

	Gross rate	At tax rates 20%	40%	Min/maximum investmnt £	Notice	Contact
Ordinary A/c[1]	1.50	1.20	0.90	10-10,000**		0645 645000
Investment A/c*s	4.75	3.80	2.85	1-499**‡	1mth	0645 645000
Income Bond* s	6.75	5.40	4.05	2,000-25,000**	3mth	0645 645000
First Opt Bond s	6.75	5.40	4.05	1,000-20,000**		0645 645000
44th Issue Cert†2 s	5.35			100-10,000	8day	0645 645000
Children's Bond†	6.75			25-1,000	1mth	0645 645000
Gen Ext Rate	3.51					0645 645000
Capital Bond3 s	6.65	5.32	3.99	100-250,000	8day	0645 645000
11th Ind Linked†3	2.75			100-10,000	8day	0645 645000
Pensnrs Bond S3 s	7.00	5.60	4.20	500-50,000s	60day	0645 645000

*[1] first £70 (£140 jt) of int tax free. inst accs for up to £100 ‡ Unlimited additional hldgs for reinvested proceeds †Tax free *Rates gross and vble ‡Guaranteed when held for 5 years ‡0.2% net bonus for £20,000+ ‡£100,000 jt in addition to S1 and S2 holdings ‡Taxable but cred in full ‡£500-100,000 earn higher rates. **Tiered rates apply*

PENSION ANNUITIES

All figures are the gross annual annuity (£100,000 purchase), guaranteed 5 years, paid monthly in advance

SINGLE LIFE (level ann)	Male: Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Scottish Widows ..Level	£ 9,240	£10,270	£11,670
Standard Life ....Level	£ 9,044	£10,136	£11,564
Sun Life ....Level	£ 8,922	£10,049	£11,569
Sun Lf of Can.......Level	£ 8,914	£ 9,978	£11,423
Commercial UnionLevel	£ 8,592	£ 9,902	£11,622

SINGLE LIFE	Female: Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Scottish Widows ..Level	£8,410	£ 9,090	£10,100
Prudential ....Level	£8,203	£ 9,027	£10,229
Sun Lf of Can.......Level	£8,154	£ 8,919	£10,032
Sun Life ....Level	£8,097	£ 8,911	£10,086
Equitable Life........Level	£8,176	£ 8,909	£ 9,971

JOINT LIFE, 2/3 WIDOWS (level annuity)	Male: Age 60 Female: Age 55	Age 65 Age 60	Age 70 Age 65
Scottish Widows ..Level	£8,049	£8,549	£ 9,226
Equitable Life........Level	£7,807	£8,384	£ 9,197
Sun Lf of Can.......Level	£7,760	£8,360	£ 9,203
Prudential ....Level	£7,716	£8,263	£ 9,101
Sun Life ....Level	£7,659	£8,261	£ 9,072

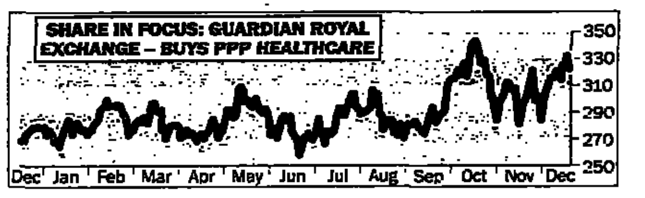
Source: Annuity Direct (0171 684 5000)

Statistics compiled by Lizanne Rose

PIBS

FIXED RATE	Gross coupon	Buying price	% Gross yield	Issue price	Minimum purchase amount
Birmingham Midshires	9.375%	123.00	7.620	100.17	1,000
Bradford & Bingley	11.625%	152.75	7.610	100.13	10,000
Bradford & Bingley	13.000%	170.25	7.640	100.20	10,000
Britannia	13.000%	169.50	7.670	100.42	1,000
Coventry	12.125%	158.00	7.670	100.75	1,000
First National	11.750%	154.00	7.630	100.25	10,000
Leeds & Holbeck	13.375%	179.75	7.440	100.23	1,000
Newcastle	10.750%	144.25	7.450	100.32	1,000
Newcastle	12.625%	169.00	7.470	100.45	1,000
Skipton	12.875%	173.00	7.440	100.48	1,000
PERPETUAL SUBORDINATED BONDS					
Chelt & Gloucester	11.750%	159.50	7.370	100.98	50,000
Halifax	8.750%	115.50	7.580	100.62	50,000
Halifax	12.000%	151.00	7.950	100.28	50,000
Halifax	13.630%	185.25	7.350	100.00	50,000
Bristol & West	13.380%	174.25	7.680	100.34	1,000
Northern Rock	12.625%	165.50	7.630	100.14	1,000

PIBS=Permanent interest-bearing shares. *Source*. NatWest Markets



LARGER LENDERS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Chelsea 0800 291291	5.39	£20-150k	80	Fixed to 1.2.00
Nationwide 0800 302010	5.75	to £300k	90	2.35% discount for 2 years
Brittania 0800 526350	5.74	any	80	Fixed for 2 yrs
Banks				
Bank of Ireland 01189 510100	0.99	£20-145k	95	Fixed for 6 mths 3% disc-6 mths
Northern Rock 0845 6050500	3.99	to £250k	75	Fixed to 1.2.00

LARGER LOANS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Nottingham Imper. 0115 9817220	0.75	£25-150k	75	Fixed at 0.75% to 31.1.98
Leeds & Holbeck 0113 2257777	1.20	to £180k	95	7% dsc-6 mths, 1% dsc-6 months
Scarborough 0990 133149	0.99	£15-100k	95	7.45% dsc-6 mth 2%-6mth,0.5%-1y
Banks				
Bank of Ireland 01189 510100	0.99	£20-145k	95	Fixed for 6 mth 3% dsc-6 mth
Northern Rock 0845 6050500	3.99	to £250k	75	Fixed to 1.2.00

FIRST-TIME BUYERS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Newbury 01635 43676	4.85	£30-100k	95	3% discount for 1 year
Mansfield 01246 202055	2.20	£25-250k	90	6% discount-6 mth Further dsc apply
Clay Cross 01246 862120	5.25	£15-100k	95	3% discount for 1 year
Banks				
Bnk of Ireland 01189 510100	0.99	£20-145k	95	Fixed for 6 mths, 3% disc 6 mths
Bristol & West 0800 119955	3.49	£15k+	95	Fixed to 1.1.99

Larger lenders, loans and first-time buyers tables by Bay's Guides Ltd (01753 880482)

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UNIT-LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
AEGON LIFE ASSURANCE Edinburgh Park, Edinburgh, EH12 9SE 0131 339 9191				
Balanced	563.00	595.80	- 4.10	..
UK Equity	788.40	834.30	- 7.40	..
Property	455.80	482.40	+ 0.50	..
Fixed Interest	370.10	391.70	- 1.60	...
Money	*281.20*	*297.60*	*+ 0.30*	
International	430.60	455.70	- 3.50	
ABBEY LIFE Holdenhurst Road, Bournemouth BH8 8AL 01202 292373				
Custodian S4	217.20	228.70	- 0.20	..
Ethical S4	176.90	186.30	- 1.10	..
International S4	216.60	228.10	- 0.60	.
Protected Gth S4	131.30	138.30	+ 0.10	...
Asian Pacific	146.90	154.70	- 6.50	
European S4	262.00	275.80	+ 0.40	...
Prop Fd Ser 4	448.70	472.40	+ 0.30	.
Equity Ser 4	311.70	328.20	- 0.30	..
Man Ser 4	850.30	895.10	- 3.60	..
Conv Ser 4	369.60	389.10	+ 0.40	...
Money Ser 4	369.20	388.70	+ 0.40	...
Fixed Int Ser 4	446.30	469.80	+ 1.20	...
American Ser 4	822.70	866.00	- 3.80	
High Inc Ser 4	977.10	1028.60	- 1.80	.
Indexed Inv Ser 4	259.20	272.90	- 0.50	..
Japan Ser 4	221.90	233.60	- 3.10	..
ALBANY LIFE 3 Darkes Lane, Potters Bar EN6 1AJ 01707 42311				
Equity Fd Acc	2230.50	2347.90	+ 9.20	..
European Fd Acc	559.00	588.30	- 1.90	..
Fixed Int Acc	629.90	663.00	+ 1.50	..
Gtd Money Acc	376.00	395.90	+ 0.40	.
Intl Managed Acc	805.40	847.70	- 1.00	..
Int Fxd Int Acc	380.20	400.20	+ 0.90	.
Japan Fund	200.00	210.50	- 2.20	...
N American Acc	506.60	533.20	- 2.20	
Prop Fd Acc	517.40	544.60	+ 4.80	..
Multiple Inv Acc	1341.20	1411.80	+ 3.00	.
ALLIED DUNBAR ASSURANCE Swindon SN1 1EL 01793 514514				
Fxd Int Dep Acc	422.40	444.70	+ 0.20	..
Equity Acc	1903.70	2003.90	- 8.50	.
Property Acc	744.60	783.80	+ 0.50	..
Far East Acc	239.30	251.90	- 7.00	.
Managed Capital	662.70	697.60	- 2.70	.
-do- Acc	1452.70	1529.20	- 5.30	
Overseas Acc	1401.30	1475.10	- 5.90	
Gilt Edged Acc	625.30	658.20	- 1.50	..
Amer Equity Acc	1339.30	1409.80	- 11.90	
Amer Man Acc	553.00	582.20	- 4.60	
Amer Prop Acc	116.40	122.60	- 0.30	..
Distribution Bonds	28.00	29.50		.
AXA EQUITY & LAW LIFE ASSURANCE Amersham Road, High Wycombe, Bucks *01494 463463*				
Reserve Ser 6	190.70	200.70	- 0.10	.
Balced Ser 6	961.40	1011.90	- 2.10	.
Opportunity Ser 6	219.30	230.80	- 0.90	.
Distribution Ser 6	114.20	120.20		6.14
UK Equities Ser 6	1497.30	1576.10	+ 1.90	
Higher Inc Ser 6	1579.30	1662.40	- 2.40	
North Amer Ser 6	660.60	695.30	- 14.20	
Far East Ser 6	434.10	456.90	- 4.20	
Europe Ser 6	564.90	594.60	- 3.20	
Intnl Ser 6	690.50	726.80	- 6.90	.
Property Ser 6	644.00	677.90	+ 0.70	...
Fixed Int Ser 6	536.20	564.40		
Ind-Lnkd Ser 56	223.10	234.90	- 0.40	.
Gteed Dep Ser 6	336.90	354.60	+ 0.40	
BARCLAYS LIFE 252 Romford Road, London E7 9JB 0181 534 5544				
Equity Acc	1275.10	1342.30	+ 1.50	
-do- Initial	758.20	798.20	+ 1.00	.
Gilt Edged Acc	498.40	524.70	+ 2.70	..
-do- Initial	298.90	314.70	+ 1.60	..
International Acc	461.40	485.70	[illegible]	
-do- Initial	275.00	289.50	- 3.90	.
Managed Acc	702.40	739.40	- 2.40	...
-do- Initial	420.00	442.20	- 1.50	..
Money Acc	327.50	344.80	+ 0.40	
Property Acc	345.80	364.00	+ 0.10	
-do- Initial	*206.90*	*217.80*	*+ 0.10*	...
America Acc	473.80	498.80	- 9.80	..
Far East Gwth	168.40	177.30	- 4.50	
Financial Acc	580.40	611.40	+ 1.00	...
500 Accum	548.80	577.70	- 2.10	..
Japan Acc	176.10	185.40	- 7.90	
Income Acc	742.40	781.50	- 2.20	.
Special Sits Acc	392.10	412.80	+ 1.10	
Unit Tech Acc	195.90	206.30	- 2.10	
BLACK HORSE LIFE Mountbatten House, Chatham, Kent ME4 4JF 01634 834000				
The Managed Fd	1024.43	1078.43	- 10.25	.
Income Fund	1106.30	1164.53	- 18.66	...
Extra Income	1003.76	1056.59	- 16.27	.
Worldwide Gth	611.67	643.87	- 3.85	
Balanced Fund	965.28	1016.09	- 14.96	..
Smllr Cos Recov	1100.16	1158.07	- 2.47	
N Amer & Genrl	569.94	599.94	- 1.57	.
Pacific Basin	279.53	294.25	- 6.38	
German Growth	307.51	323.70	- 4.01	...
Japan Growth	132.69	139.68	+ 1.33	.
The UK Gth Fd	312.64	329.10	- 4.63	.
Contl Euro Gth	192.29	202.42	- 2.43	...
Property Fund	449.61	472.23	- 0.60	.
Fixed Interest	416.67	438.60	+ 0.17	
Cash Fund	318.83	335.62	+ 0.31	
Managed Inv	639.09	672.73	- 6.30	..
Nth Amer Recov	371.77	391.34	+ 3.50	...
Abtrust Fund				
Managed Gth	409.56	431.12	- 7.59	.
BRITANNIA 50 Bothwell St, Glasgow G2 6HR 0141 248 2000				
Measured Perf	223.30	236.30		...
Performance Plus	245.50	257.70	- 0.20	.
With Profit Perf	199.80	211.40	+ 0.20	.

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
UK Opportunity	302.80	320.40	+ 0.30	..
Euro Opportunity	309.00	326.90	- 0.70	...
North Amer Opp	292.40	309.30	+ 0.20	...
Far East Opp	167.30	177.10	- 1.60	...
Gwth Prop Ser 1	178.80	188.20	..	...
Gth Prop Ser 2	217.20	229.80	+ 0.10	..
Fixed Int	258.70	273.70	+ 0.20	..
Cash	*178.50*	*188.70*	*+ 0.10*	*6.49*
Overseas	280.70	297.00	+ 0.20	...
Formerly LAS				
Managed Fund	467.70	492.40	- 0.10	.
UK Equity	916.00	964.30	- 0.90	...
Property	299.80	315.60	- 0.20	...
Money Market	282.80	297.70	+ 0.20	..
Fixed Interest	375.80	395.60	+ 0.20	...
Japan	248.00	261.10	- 2.10	...
North America	260.20	273.90	+ 0.20	..
International	433.70	456.60	+ 0.30	...
European	395.20	416.00	- 0.90	...
Far East	123.90	130.50	- 1.20	..
CANADA LIFE 2-6 High Street, Potters Bar, Herts EN6 5BA 01707 51122				
Managed	440.00	463.20	+ 4.20	...
Property	294.00	309.50	+ 0.40	...
Gilt & Fxd Int	298.70	314.50	+ 0.10	...
Equity	558.60	588.10	+ 8.20	...
Cash	241.30	254.10	+ 0.20	...
CLife Euro Mgd	515.80	543.00	+ 5.70	..
CLife Intl Fd	360.90	379.90	- 0.80	..
Managed Fund	939.50	988.90	- 9.00	.
Property Fund	595.80	627.20	+ 0.70	..
Equity Fund	1378.70	1451.30	+ 20.30	..
Gilt Edged Fd	770.60	811.20	+ 0.10	...
Deposit Fund	372.70	392.30	+ 0.30	..
Investment Fd	616.40	647.20	+ 8.40	..
International	574.40	604.60	+ 1.20	.
CITY OF WESTMINSTER ASSURANCE Sentry House, 500 Avebury Blvd, Milton Keynes MK9 2NU 01908 606101				
Property Fund	206.10	217.00	..	..
Managed Fund	862.60	908.00	- 2.60	..
Equity Fund	549.30	578.30	+ 4.70	...
CLERICAL MEDICAL/FIDELITY INVESTMENTS Narrow Plain, Bristol BS2 0JH. 0117 9290566				
Assurance Funds				
Sapphire Mixed	379.80	399.80	- 1.50	...
Ruby	203.30	214.10	- 1.90	.
Emerald	174.80	184.10	+ 0.10	
Equity	479.00	504.30	- 0.30	...
Property	256.80	270.40	+ 1.00	.
Gilt & Fixed Int	260.00	273.70	+ 0.10	..
Indexed Secs	206.10	217.00	- 0.60	
Cash	210.40	221.50	+ 0.20	...
Nth American	368.60	388.00	- 4.30	
Far East	216.60	228.00	- 4.50	...
International	279.80	294.60	- 3.40	
Special Sits	519.90	547.30	- 0.30	...
Intl Income	444.90	468.40		.
European	495.40	521.50	- 3.10	..
Japanese	89.60	94.40	- 2.90	.
SE Asia	304.00	320.00	- 5.80	
With Profits Reg	198.50	209.00	+ 0.20	
-do- Spec	198.50	209.00	+ 0.20	.
Flexible Retirement Plans Funds				
Mixed	449.20	472.90	- 1.40	...
Equity	609.20	641.30	- 0.70	..
Property	243.60	256.50	- 1.30	
Gilt & Fixed Int	342.90	361.00	- 0.10	..
Index Linked	222.90	234.70	- 0.70	.
Cash	292.60	308.00	+ 0.30	.
Nth American	455.80	479.80	- 3.80	.
Far East Acc	229.40	241.50	- 3.60	...
International Acc	344.20	362.40	- 3.00	...
Special Sits	780.30	821.40	- 0.50	..
European Flex	708.40	745.70	- 7.00	..
COLONIAL MUTUAL GROUP Colonial Mutual House, Chatham Maritime, Kent ME4 4YY. 01634 890 000				
(Unit) Key 1	273.96			...
-do- Pacemaker 2	470.07			
-do- Cash	226.55	238.47	+ 0.18	...
-do- Equity	762.22	802.34	- 0.58	.
-do- Fxd Int	451.28	475.01	+ 0.14	.
-do- Managed	537.72	566.02	- 0.77	..
-do- Property	*420.72*	*442.86*	*+ 3.02*	...
(Pens) Cash Cap	219.56	231.12	+ 0.11	..
-do- Cash Inv	357.55	376.38	+ 0.45	.
-do- Equity Cap	1979.30	2083.48	- 3.54	...
-do- Equity Inv	3223.25	3392.90	- 3.47	.
-do- Fixed Cap	484.81	510.33	- 0.15	.
-do- Fixed Inv	789.50	831.06	+ 0.32	.
-do- Index Cap	233.73	246.04	- 0.85	..
-do- Index Inv	380.42	400.67	- 1.11	..
-do- Mngd Cap	776.51	817.38	- 1.09	..
-do- Mngd Inv	1264.54	1331.10	- 1.90	...
COMMERCIAL UNION St Helen's, 1 Undershaft, EC3 0171 283 7500				
Var Ann Acc (5)	1153.53	.	- 12.58	...
Var Ann (5)	125.61	.	+ 0.82	..
Prime Managed	531.60	559.60	- 0.70	.
Prime UK Equity	727.50	765.80	- 1.60	...
Prime Intl Equity	331.40	348.90	- 3.70	.
Prime Property	274.80	289.30	+ 1.00	..
Prime Fxd Int	283.70	298.70	+ 0.10	...
Prime Index-Lnk	205.80	216.70	- 0.40	.
Prime Cash	231.60	243.80	+ 0.20	.
CONFEDERATION LIFE Lytton Way, Stevenage, Herts SG1 2NN 01438 744840				
Managed Fund	1470.00	1547.30	+ 46.10	...
Equity	2316.10	2438.00	+ 96.00	..
EAGLE STAR LIFE ASSURANCE Montpellier Drive, Cheltenham, GL53 7LQ. 01242 221311				
Life Funds				
UT Wth Pfts (5&6)	119.90		+ 0.20	.
Secure (3)	112.40	...	+ 0.10	..
Managed (3)	128.10	...	- 0.30	...
Equity Mngd (3)	126.70	.	- 0.40	
Adventurous (3)	113.60	.	- 1.00	..

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Bristol & West (2)	114.30	...	- 0.10	
Equity Mgd S1	308.20	324.50	- 1.10	..
Managed S1	309.20	325.50	- 0.90	...
Adventurous S1	234.90	247.30	- 2.20	.
Managed (2)	210.00	221.10	- 0.60	
Eagle/Mid Uts	406.30	421.10	- 1.50	0.01
Pension Funds				
Unit With Pfts (5)	*119.40*	...	*+ 0.20*	...
Secure (2)	113.50	...	+ 0.20	.
Managed (2)	127.70	.	- 0.40	..
Equity Mngd (2)	128.30	.	- 0.50	...
Adventurous (2)	112.00	...	- 1.20	..
Bristol & West (2)	115.60	.	+ 0.10	...
FRIENDS' PROVIDENT Castle Street, Salisbury, Wilts SP1 3SH 01722 413366				
Managed	414.80	436.70	+ 0.30	.
UK Equity	594.40	625.70	- 1.10	...
Stewardship	492.30	518.30	- 0.60	..
Overseas Equity	369.70	389.20	- 0.10	..
North American	239.30	251.90	- 0.10	..
Pacific Basin	127.30	134.10	- 2.50	..
European	371.50	391.10	- 0.40	...
Property	207.00	217.90	- 0.20	.
Fixed Interest	302.50	318.50	- 1.00	.
Index Linked	204.90	215.70	- 0.40	.
Cash	226.70	238.70	+ 0.20	.
FP Life Assurance ex NM				
Fixed Interest	665.20	700.20	- 0.90	.
Managed	999.50	1052.10	+ 59.80	.
Deposit	388.10	408.60	+ 1.30	
Property	577.30	607.70	.	.
American	668.50	703.70	- 2.30	...
Australian	630.10	663.20	+ 3.90	.
European	886.50	933.10	- 6.10	..
Income Acc	1096.90	1154.50	+ 3.00	..
-do- Dist	583.10	613.80	- 2.10	4.25
International	393.60	414.30	- 0.30	..
Japan Smaller	244.60	257.50	- 5.70	.
Singapore & Mal	279.00	293.70	- 5.90	.
Tokyo Fund	525.70	553.40	- 5.20	..
UK Equity	844.80	889.30	- 4.70	
CCM Vangd Mg	998.50	1051.20	- 7.40	..
GT GLOBAL FUND MGMT LTD Alban Gate, 14th Flr, 125 London Wall, Lond EC2Y 5AS. 0171 710 4567				
GT Plan Far East	239.50	252.20	[illegible]	..
GT Plan Wwide	592.80	624.00	[illegible]	
GAN LIFE & PENSIONS Gan House, Harlow, Essex CM20 2EW. 01279 626262				
Portfolio Acc	829.60	[illegible]	- 3.90	
-do- Inv A	829.50	[illegible]	[illegible]	
UK Equity	571.80	601.90	- 2.10	..
Gilt Plus	244.50	257.40	+ 0.70	...
Managed	378.80	[illegible]	- 1.30	.
GENERAL ACCIDENT *2 Rougier St, York YO1 1HR. 01904 629952*				
Managed	275.60	290.00	- 0.40	
Unitised Profit	169.50	178.40	- 0.30	
UK Equity	427.50	449.90	- 0.87	..
Fixed Int	238.90	251.30	+ 0.20	
Index-Linked	198.90	209.30	- 0.57	.
Cash Deposit	195.70	205.90	+ 0.20	
Property	200.60	211.10	+ 0.20	
International	211.30	222.40	+ 0.50	
American	267.90	281.90	- 2.10	
Japan	169.90	178.90	- 2.20	
Japan Smllr Cos	174.00	183.10	- 2.30	
European	256.50	269.70	- 1.10	
Pacific Fund	198.90	209.20	- 2.80	.
Com Life	176.50	185.70	+ 0.80	..
Formerly Provident Mutual				
Managed Ord	629.70	662.90	- 0.80	.
Managed Initial	384.50	404.90	- 0.70	.
Equity Ord	1081.20	1138.10	+ 2.10	.
Equity Init	660.50	695.30	+ 1.20	.
I-Linked Gilt Ord	242.50	255.30	- 0.70	.
I-Linked Gilt Init	154.70	162.90	- 0.60	...
Oseas Equity Ord	429.10	451.70	- 3.20	.
Oseas Equity Init	262.10	275.90	- 2.20	.
Property Ord	311.70	328.10	+ 0.10	
Property Init	190.40	200.40		.
Fixed Int Ord	349.40	367.80	+ 0.20	.
Fixed Int Init	213.40	224.60		.
Deposit Ord	233.50	245.80	+ 0.20	.
Deposit Initial	*142.70*	*150.20*	*+ 0.10*	...
GUARDIAN ROYAL EXCHANGE Royal Exchange London EC3. 0171 283 7101				
A&C Prop Bds	960.30	[illegible]	....	.
Managed Initial	879.60	[illegible]	[illegible]	.
-do- Acc	884.90	931.50	- 0.80	.
Equity Initial	972.60	1023.70	- 1.20	...
-do- Acc	1495.00	[illegible]	+ 1.50	..
Fixed Int Initial	519.30	546.60	+ 1.10	..
-do- Acc	792.90	834.60	+ 2.10	.
Intl Initial	493.10	519.00	- 2.10	.
-do- Acc	751.50	791.00	- 2.80	.
Nth Amer Initial	286.60	301.70	- 1.60	.
-do- Acc	398.50	419.50	- 1.80	
Pacific Initial	145.90	153.60	- 2.40	
-do- Acc	201.40	211.90	- 3.20	
Property Initial	198.30	208.70		.
-do- Acc	301.90	317.80		...
Index-Lnkd Initl	184.10	193.80	+ 0.40	
-do- Acc	255.90	269.30	- 0.50	...
Deposit Initial	209.50	220.50	+ 0.10	
-do- Acc	319.80	336.60	+ 0.30	
Euro Initial	141.70	149.20	- 3.20	..
-do- Acc	182.00	191.60	[illegible]	
HALIFAX LIFE LTD PO Box 285, York YO1 1YB 01904 611100				
Life Funds				
Foundation	34.31	36.12	[illegible]	..
Balanced	34.04	35.83	[illegible]	
Opportunity	34.10	35.89	[illegible]	..
Deposit	26.66	28.06	[illegible]	..
Pension Funds				
Foundation S2	26.69	28.09	- 0.07	.
Balanced S2	26.92	28.34	- 0.03	...
Opportunity S2	26.19	27.56	+ 0.04	..
Deposit S2	25.09	26.40	+ 0.04	

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
HAMBRO ASSURED Harbour House, Portway, Preston, Lancs PR2 2PR. 01772 540000				
Managed	226.70	238.60	- 2.60	...
-do- Pens	295.80	311.30	+ 4.20	..
UK Equity	260.90	274.60	+ 4.20	..
-do- Pens	324.00	341.00	+ 6.20	..
International	*174.70*	*183.90*	*- 1.40*	...
-do- Pens	193.40	203.50	+ 1.90	...
Deposit	157.00	165.20	+ 0.20	...
-do- Pens	193.00	203.10	+ 0.30	...
HILL SAMUEL LIFE NLA Tower, Addiscombe Road, Croydon 0181 686 4355				
Security Fund	783.80	829.50	- 1.80	..
British Fund	837.40	886.20	+ 1.00	...
International	689.10	729.30	- 1.60	...
Dollar Fund	654.30	692.40	- 3.00	...
Capital Fund	656.30	694.50	- 1.90	...
Income Fund	1048.30	1109.40	- 0.10	..
Property Series A	570.70	604.00	- 2.40	4.70
Property Units	953.50	1001.20	+ 4.00	..
Financial Fund	1012.90	1071.90	+ 3.70	...
Managed Ser A	728.90	771.40	- 2.60	...
Managed Units	1319.00	1388.50	- 4.60	..
High Yield Fund	948.90	1004.20	- 0.10	..
Money Series A	327.10	346.20	+ 0.30	..
Money Units	438.60	461.70	+ 0.40	...
Equity Fund	838.00	886.80	- 2.00	..
Fixed Interest	476.80	504.60	+ 0.30	...
Indexed Secs	224.60	237.70	- 1.00	...
European Fund	1058.60	1120.30	+ 1.80	..
Natural Res	241.00	255.10	- 1.50	...
Far East Fund	454.20	480.70	- 6.50	..
Smaller Cos	686.40	726.40	- 0.20	
Special Sits	722.40	764.50	+ 0.40	...
Man Currency	291.10	308.10	..	...
Japanese Tech	227.40	240.70	- 3.30	..
US Smaller Cos	511.10	540.90	+ 3.00	
Formerly Target Life Assurance Co Ltd				
Deposit	279.00	293.70	+ 0.20	.
Financial Ser 1	80.70	85.00	+ 0.30	..
Fixed Interest	400.40	421.50	- 2.70	..
Gold	62.60	65.90	+ 0.70	..
Managed	801.90	844.20	- 1.70	..
Mngd Growth	256.50	270.00	- 0.60	..
Property	396.10	417.00	..	..
Residential Prop	125.10	131.70	...	..
TSB American	377.50	397.40	- 1.50	...
TSB Brit Gwth	1293.00	1361.10	+ 1.70	...
TSB European	394.30	415.10	+ 0.50	...
TSB Income	611.90	644.20	+ 4.40	...
TSB Intl	528.00	555.80	- 0.90	..
TSB Pacific	325.20	342.40	- 1.80	..
IRISH LIFE ASSURANCE Irish Life Centre, Victoria Street, St Albans, Herts AL1 5TF. 01727 48181				
Global Managed	764.60	804.80	- 6.30	
Global Property	341.80	359.90	.	...
Global Fixed Int	649.00	683.20	- 1.00	
Global Equity	833.20	877.00	- 8.30	..
Global Cash	241.30	254.00	+ 0.30	
LEGAL & GENERAL UNIT ASSURANCE 2 Montefiore Road, Hove, Sussex BN3 1SE 01273 824000				
B Soc Lnkd Init	134.80	141.90	.	.
-do- Acc	202.50	213.20	+ 0.20	.
Brit Opps Init	198.70	209.20	- 0.30	.
-do- Acc	269.90	284.20	- 0.40	...
Cash Initial	173.00	182.20	+ 0.30	..
-do- Acc	325.90	343.10	+ 0.40	.
Equity Initial	919.50	967.90	- 0.70	...
-do- Acc	1732.10	1823.30	+ 1.30	.
Fixed Initial	399.30	420.40	+ 0.30	
-do- Acc	752.20	791.80	+ 0.40	.
Index-Lnkd Gilt	152.30	160.40	- 0.70	..
-do- Acc	244.70	257.60	- 1.30	...
Intl Initial	330.50	347.90	- 2.60	..
-do- Acc	612.90	645.20	- 4.70	.
Managed Initial	581.00	611.60	- 0.80	.
-do- Acc	1094.50	1152.20	- 1.30	.
Property Initial	234.60	247.00	+ 0.20	.
-do- Acc	441.90	465.20	+ 0.30	..
LINCOLN The Quays, 101-105 Oxford Road, Uxbridge, Middx UB8 1LZ 01895 200 200				
Equity Units	2194.40	...	+ 13.00	.
Property Units	3266.00	3438.00	+ 3.00	...
Bal Bd Exec Unit	4515.10	[illegible]	- 40.00	..
2nd Equity Acc	915.90	964.00	+ 0.60	...
2nd High Inc Ac	895.50	942.90	- 3.30	..
2nd Property Acc	292.80	308.10	+ 0.30	.
2nd Mngd 2 Acc	214.10	225.30	+ 0.40	.
2nd Mngd 3 Acc	590.20	621.20	- 2.80	...
2nd Mngd 4 Acc	268.90	282.90	- 1.40	.
2nd Deposit Acc	319.50	336.30	+ 0.30	.
2nd Gilt Acc	375.60	395.50	+ 0.40	...
2nd Amer Acc	1026.00	1080.00	- 21.00	.
2nd Intl Mng Acc	245.60	258.20	- 0.70	.
2nd Index Acc	247.70	260.60	- 0.60	..
2nd Far East Acc	259.60	273.20	- 1.90	.
2nd Global Acc	177.00	186.20	- 2.70	..
2nd Euro Acc	217.60	228.90	+ 2.70	...
2nd Japan Acc	104.80	110.20	- 4.20	...
2nd Int Cr Bd Acc	175.00	184.20	- 0.40	.
2nd Cap Gilt Acc	169.60	178.50	+ 0.40	
ex-Laurentian				
Property	623.80	656.50	+ 0.40	..
Managed	[illegible]	958.40	- 2.50	..
American	599.10	630.50	- 12.50	...
UK Equity Fd	665.30	[illegible]	+ 0.40	...
Japan	115.40	121.40	- 4.80	..
Index-Lkd	221.50	233.40	- 0.60	...
High Yield	1244.00	1309.00	- 5.00	..
Money	454.00	477.80	+ 0.50	...
International	397.70	418.50	- 6.00	...
Perpetual Active	377.60	397.30	- 6.30	.
Growth Acc	829.60	873.20	- 3.90	
Gilt Edged	532.40	560.30	- 0.50	...

هكذا من الإصل

Clare Stewart on stockbroking services for the private investor

DENZIL McNEELANCE

Sold: a broker at Charles Schwab in Birmingham executes a sell order. The company offers a range of services

Going for broker can help you to take stock

The number of people owning shares has grown threefold over the past decade and with a series of building society demutualisations this year now stands at 15 million.

The distribution of windfall bonuses did more to increase the shareholder register in the UK than the privatisations of the 1980s. Now that the year is drawing to a close and people reassess their portfolios, *Weekend Money* looks at how to buy and sell through a stockbroker or broking service.

Q Where can I find out about brokers in my area?

A The Association of Private Client Investment Managers and Stockbrokers *publishes a directory of its* members. It gives informa*tion on charges, services and* whether brokers will also act for smaller investors. The directory is available free from APCIMS, 112 Middlesex Street, London E1 7HY. APCIMS also has an Internet site that can be found at apcims.org and which is up*dated regularly.*

Q What if I just want to do occasional deals?

A The simplest route is a broker offering an execution-only *service. The largest in* the UK is Charles Schwab, for*merly Sharelink.* Using its tele*phone service, there is a minimum* charge of £20 per deal.

For investors dealing more often there are two other options which may prove more cost-effective. Charles Schwab's Market Master ser*vice charges a minimum* fee per deal of £10, with a scale of charges starting at 1 per cent for the first £2,500. There is a quarterly administration fee of £6 minimum. The next step up is the Frequent Traders Club for which there is a flat fee of £16.50 per trade, and a *£60 annual fee plus a £6* quarterly charge.

Q What if I want to deal through my local bank?

A High street banks such as Barclays and NatWest can offer execution-only services. About 290 of NatWest's branches offer a touch screen *dealing system that* allows customers to deal direct themselves. The system offers live stock market prices and the customer may accept or reject the price offered for the sale or purchase of shares. The mini*mum commission is £20.*

For more frequent dealing needs, NatWest customers can register as a direct client which gives access to its BrokerLine services. For execution-only services there is a minimum commission of £20 for UK equities, £65 for international equities *and £25 for gilts.*

Coutts Bank offers basic dealing services with a mini*mum commission of £25 on* UK equities and gilts alongside its investment and portfolio management services.

Q What if I want to get advice on which shares *to buy or sell?*

A There are usually several levels of advisory service offered by stockbrokers. Customers of NatWest's BrokerLine service, for an extra annual fee of £75, can ring for advice when required.

For more comprehensive help in handling a range of *investments. NatWest has an* Advisory Portfolio Service. "This is more like a traditional stockbroking relationship with the client," says Richard Hunter, head of dealing services. Clients receive regular advice on *investment ideas* and their portfolios are updat*ed at least twice a year.* There is an annual fee of £300 plus VAT, with commission rates on top. The minimum rate for share trading is £35.

Coutts also offers an Investment Advisory Service. "This *may range from suggesting* where to find a better rate for money *on deposit* through to foreign currency trading," said Richard Stammers, head of marketing.

There is a management fee of 1 per cent per annum of the capital value of the portfolio, *plus VAT charged quarterly* with a minimum of £10,000 a year. There is also a minimum *commission of £50 on dealings* in equities or unit trusts.

Q Can I hand the whole portfolio over to be managed by a broker?

A A *discretionary service* offered by a broker *means the investor can hand it* all over.

In the UK, said Mr Stammer, 90 per cent of its clients choose the discretionary service. While the broker makes the decisions, the client is kept *up to date with changes and* given detailed reports on the *portfolio performance.*

Coutts charges a management fee made up of 1 per cent of the capital value of the portfolio plus VAT, with a minimum quarterly fee of £375 plus VAT. Commission on *share dealings starts at 1.5 per* cent on the first £10,000.

NatWest Stockbrokers also offers a discretionary service, with a 1 per cent annual management fee (minimum £700) plus VAT. On UK equities there is a minimum commission of £10.

Q What other services can stockbrokers offer?

A Execution-only brokers such as Charles Schwab offer extras such as a monthly *New Issues Bulletin* detailing new share issues and *ShareFinder Report*, which supplies financial analysis of companies.

An explorer's guide to unit trust talk

Patrick Collinson examines the listings and explains some of the technical terms used

INVESTMENT
A GUIDE FOR BEGINNERS

Choosing a unit trust from the 1,600 on offer is difficult enough. But trying to decipher the unit trust pricing information published in the newspapers is more than enough to fox *most investors.*

The unit trust industry presents itself as a provider of simple, transparent products, especially compared with the complexity of life and pension funds.

*But the stock market jar*gon of bid and offer spread, creation units, cancellation units and compound annual return predates the era of personal equity plan (Pep) marketing and can easily baffle the small investor who is new to the market.

The large unit trust groups have made efforts to simplify the information they give to investors, and many, such as M&G and Fidelity, offer a freephone number for investors to obtain an instant quote on the value of their investments, and offer a buying or selling service.

Every day of the week, except for Monday — when no prices are published as the market is closed on Sunday — *The Times* publishes unit trust prices from the 128 different groups currently managing unit trusts. *Every Saturday, the figures* are calculated to reflect the performance of the trust over the previous week.

Pep prices are not quoted separately from unit trust prices. This is because Peps *are simply a tax-free wrap*per around the underlying investment and have no value in themselves.

If a Pep is invested in a single unit trust, working out its value will follow the same rules (set out below) as a non-Pep unit trust investor. *However, complicating* the picture is the fact that many Peps are invested in a selection of unit trusts, in which case obtaining a valuation is best done by contacting the manager of the fund directly.

Here Weekend Money gives *a guide to the pricing* jargon.

DAILY PRICES

The price of a *unit trust* reflects exactly the value of the fund's underlying investment in a basket of shares. The shares are valued daily and the price of the units is adjusted accordingly.

SELL

This is the relevant price for anyone calculating the value of their investments. The sell price (otherwise known as the *"bid" price) is expressed in* pence and is the cash-in value of your units.

For example, if you hold 2,000 units in M&G American, at a sell price of 638.40p the calculation would be:

2,000 x 638.40 = 1,276,000/100 = £12,768.

(No units) x (sell price) = (value in pence) divided by 100 = (value in pounds)

BUY

This is the price at which *investors buy units in a unit* trust, and is otherwise known as the "offer" price.

It is higher than the selling price on any one day, because of the charge made by the investment manager and the difference between the buying and selling prices of the under*lying shares, including stamp* duty. The gap between the two prices is commonly known as the "spread". For example, to buy 2,000 units of M&G American would cost 2,000 x 673.90, or £13,478. This is £710 more than the immediate sale value, underlining why unit *trusts are not the right home* for short-term cash: the investment would have to grow by more than 5 per cent to recoup the costs and charges.

PLUS-MINUS

This shows the price change over the previous day, and is expressed in pence, not in terms of percentage. So in the example shown, M&G American has risen by 5.9p to a selling price of 638.4p.

Like shares, unit trust prices are always quoted in pence rather than pounds. This is because they rise or fall from *an initial launch price.* This is typically set at 100p, but in the past launch prices have set at 50p or 25p.

YIELD

This is a percentage figure showing how much income *(also known as dividend) you* will earn on your unit trust. For example, on M&G American, the yield is 0.49 per cent, which shows that for each £100 invested, the trust earns 49p in income.

M&G American is designed not as an income fund but as a growth fund, so the low income is to be expected.

A quick scan through the price pages will reveal equity income trusts which have yields of about 4-4.5 per cent and bond and fixed interest *trusts with yields of more than* 7 per cent. However, the yield figure is quoted gross and is not what a unit trust investor *will receive.*

Tax is automaticaly deducted at the 23 per cent basic rate before the income is paid out, and higher-rate taxpayers are *liable* for extra tax. Non-taxpayers can reclaim the basic rate tax that has been deducted.

ACCUM

This abbreviation stands for accumulation units. This is where the trust manager automatically reinvests income back into the unit trust, increasing the unit price. It is not a separate unit trust.

In the example, the selling price of M&G American accumulation units is 800.5p compared with 638.4p for the standard units, which shows the impact of years of reinvesting even a small amount of *income can have on the long* term value of a unit trust investment.

CORNER BOX

The bottom right hand corner *of The Times unit trust prices* page contains further annotations that apply to some unit trusts.

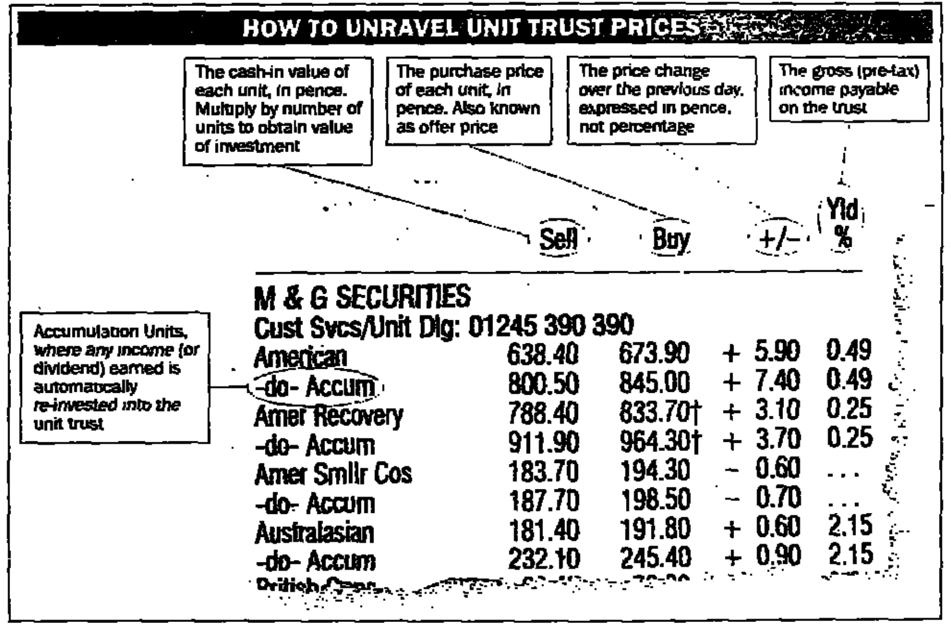
■ **Ex-dividend:** Unit trusts will distribute income at set *points during the year. As the* date of distribution approaches, the price will inevitably rise — any buyer is automatically going to receive some income very shortly.

When a unit trust is marked ex-dividend, it means that the price of the unit trust no longer *includes the dividend, and is* therefore likely to fall back for some time.

■ **Periodic charge deducted from capital:** Most unit trust groups charge their annual fee (typically 1-1.5 per cent) against the income generated *by the trust.*

Some trusts, especially those keen to maintain a high payout, put the charge against the capital of the fund. Either way, the investor pays the same fee and is in exactly the *same tax position.*

■ **Exit Charge:** Most trusts typically charge an initial fee of 3 to 5.5 per cent, but a few do not make any initial charge but levy an exit fee if the investor cashes in the investment before a predetermined *period, which is typically five* years. The exit fee is usually on a sliding scale of 5 per cent in year one falling to 1 per cent in year five.



HOW TO UNRAVEL UNIT TRUST PRICES

The cash-in value of each unit, in pence. Multiply by number of units to obtain value of investment

The purchase price of each unit, in pence. Also known as offer price

The price change over the previous day, expressed in pence, not percentage

The gross (pre-tax) income payable on the trust

Accumulation Units, *where any income (or dividend) earned is* automatically *re-invested into the* unit trust

M & G SECURITIES
Cust Svcs/Unit Dlg: 01245 390 390

	Sell	Buy	+/–	Yld %
American	638.40	673.90	+ 5.90	0.49
-do- Accum	800.50	845.00	+ 7.40	0.49
Amer Recovery	788.40	833.70†	+ 3.10	0.25
-do- Accum	911.90	964.30†	+ 3.70	0.25
Amer Smllr Cos	183.70	194.30	– 0.60	...
-do- Accum	187.70	198.50	– 0.70	...
Australasian	181.40	191.80	+ 0.60	2.15
-do- Accum	232.10	245.40	+ 0.90	2.15
British Opp...	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

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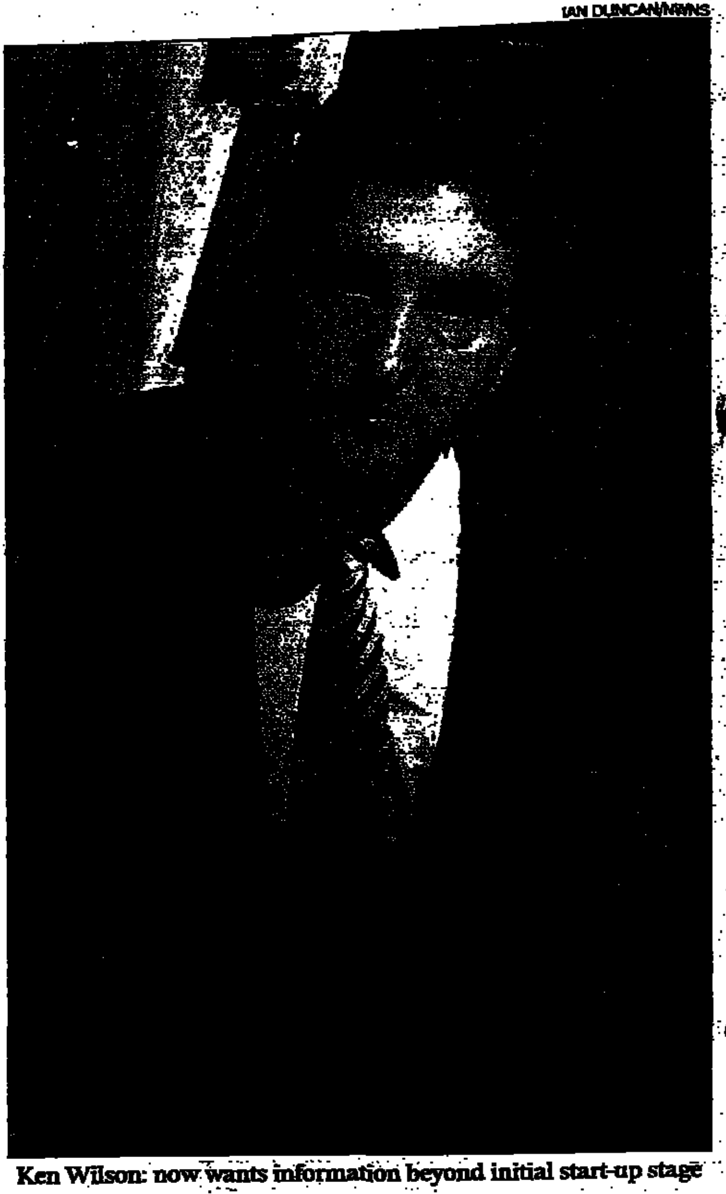
A little light reading for go-it-aloners

John Givens asked two recent subjects of the Go-It-Alone column to assess some of the best books on small business

SIMON WALKER

Emma Bagnall: looking for basics, such as book-keeping and tax

IAN DUNCAN/NWNS



Ken Wilson: now wants information beyond initial start-up stage

If you were thinking of setting up in business, knowing how to go about it and understanding what your responsibilities are will be key to your future success.

While there are many small business agencies which will help you to get started, the best way to learn the basics is probably to buy one of the growing number of books that will try to turn you into an all-round businessman overnight.

Weekend Money asked leading bookstores to name their bestselling titles for small businesses and got two of the people who have featured in the Go-It-Alone pages in recent weeks to tell us what they thought of them and give star ratings out of five for each title.

Emma Bagnall is a 32-year-old freelance graphic designer from Stoke Newington, North London. Having recently set up as a self-employed worker she is interested in reading about the basics of going it alone, such as book-keeping, tax and VAT.

Ken Wilson, 41, set up his recruitment business, Ken Wilson Associates Ltd, in Newcastle upon Tyne ten years ago after working for an accountancy recruitment agency for six years. He now wants information that goes beyond the initial start-up stage.

The Daily Telegraph — How To Set Up and Run Your Own Business, published by Kogan Page at £11.99.
Ken: "This book deals with all the relevant issues generally rather than specifically, but in an uncomplicated and easy-to-read manner. However, the content is delivered very much in an advisory 'what is required' format rather than showing you by example, which in my view would be more helpful. The book carries a lot of advertising which I found distracting and I think a dedicated section at the back carrying ads would improve its readability."★★★
Emma: "There was a lot of information in this book which, as someone new to being self-employed, was not really relevant to me. I also found it difficult to read, partly because I found many of the diagrams confusing and also because, unusually for a book, there were adverts dotted around which made it hard to read."★★

Lloyds Bank Small Business Guide, published by Penguin at £12.
Ken: "Easily the best of the bunch. The thinking man's guide to setting up a business, which comprehensively explains the intricacies of financial preparation and controls and the implications for a business of tax and profits.

"Great emphasis is placed on the value of business planning, demonstrated throughout with the use of commonsense and practical examples. It also contains an extensive reference section, packed with names, addresses and telephone numbers of useful contacts, which I found very helpful."★★★★★
Emma: "This is the one I would buy. It is nicely laid out which makes it easy to read and the opening chapter is very good. The book asks and answers a lot of questions and I found the section looking at whether you should set up as a sole trader, partnership or limited company really useful. It explains things very clearly, giving the pros and cons of each option, and the diagrams are also very good."★★★★

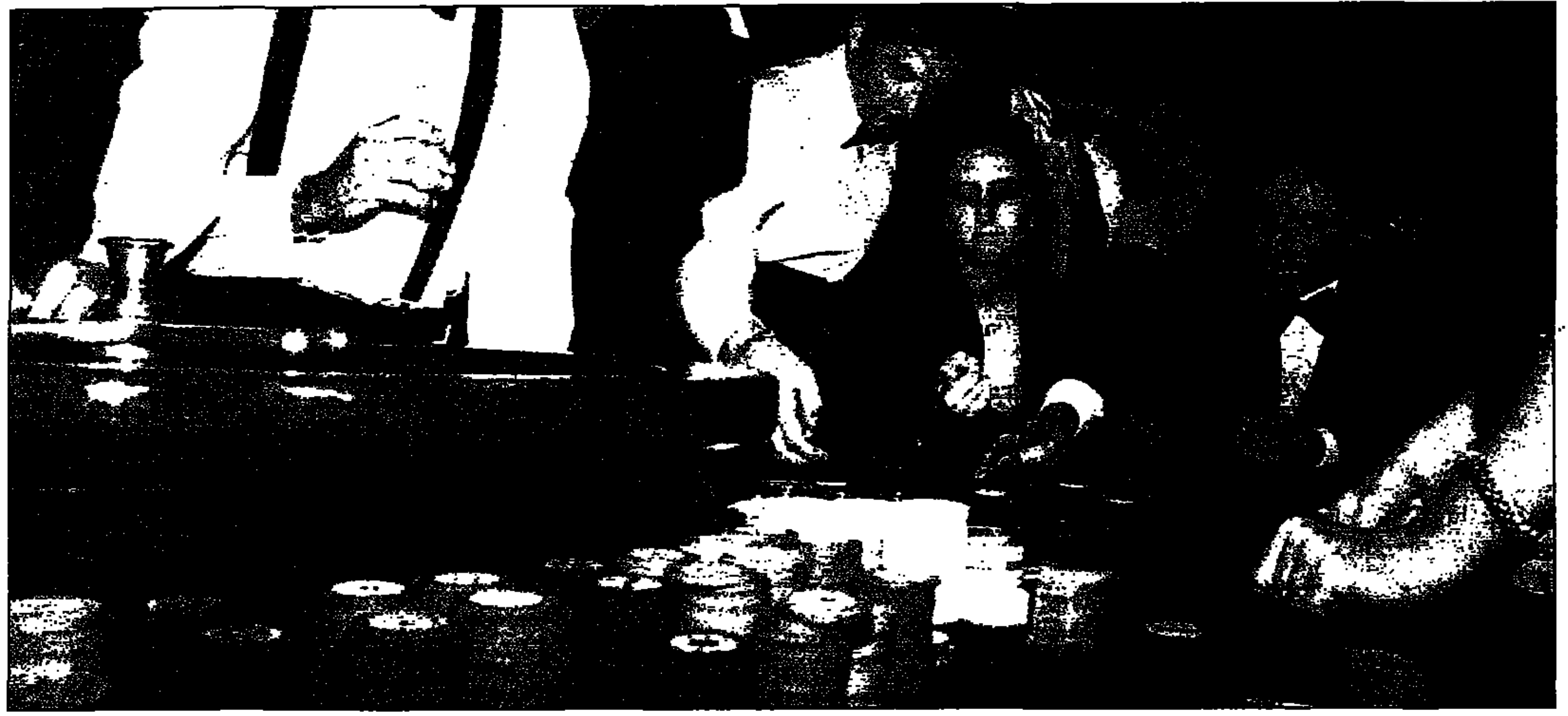
The Greatest Little Business Book, published by Hingston Publishing at £8.50.
Ken: "This book is ideal for the self-employed or sole trader who understands their market but who has little or no experience of running a business. It offers good basic advice on topics such as tax or other financial matters and is written in simple English, making it easy to understand. Experienced businessmen however, would probably find this title a little too basic."★★★
Emma: "Despite the title I didn't think this was the greatest little business book at all. The design is poor throughout, which spoils it. Although the information is down-to-earth it isn't very inviting to read and I found it very difficult to get into. On the plus side, it does mention how important it is for a small business or self-employed person to have a well-designed letterhead and business card, which, as a graphic designer, I would certainly agree with."★★

The Financial Times — Mastering Enterprise, published by FT Pitman Publishing at £25.
Ken: "What this book does not include is not worth knowing, although it is very weighty and reads a bit like a textbook with lots of business jargon and academic-style philosophies. It makes good use of case studies and is well laid out with plenty of graphs, tables and pictures. However, it is probably not really suitable for someone just setting out and needing basic advice."★★★
Emma: "It has a nice glossy look to it, but as a basic guide to setting up I did not find it at all helpful. It has a collection of essays and articles, and reads like a textbook, and there is very little practical, basic advice. It is nicely presented but the content is way above me."★

The Essence of Small Business, Prentice Hall, £12.95.
Ken: "Seems to be pitched at the businessman who already knows the basics. It has a concise style of writing which assumes an existing knowledge of business practice and highlights strongly the need for a comprehensive business plan. It is well illustrated and uses good graphics but I think this book fails to connect with the everyday needs of a small business owner."★★★
Emma: "Again, I found this book lacking in basic, practical advice for someone new to business, and topics such as tax and book-keeping for the self-employed were not really covered. I also found the design uninviting, with lots of graphics and charts which I found irrelevant. I think this title is more suited to readers who already know something about running a business, rather than those new to self-employment."★

KPI — Your Business Start-Up Action Kit, Kogan Page, £9.99 (£24.99 with CD-Rom).
Ken: "This is a book and combined CD-Rom which gives business plan layouts among other things. The book is simple and down-to-earth and written in an easy-to-understand style. I think this is a good choice for the new businessman although it is a pity that the CD-Rom, which is very useful, means you've probably got to spend at least £1,000 to buy the hardware to run it."★★★★
Emma: "From the point of view of appealing to new set-ups it wasn't too bad, although I found some of the chapters I was interested in a little too short. The CD-Rom looked like it could be very useful but, as I haven't got a system to run it on, I'll never know."

DENZIL McNEELANCE



Work hard then play hard: this year traders, fund managers and analysts will join other young professionals spending bonuses that could total up to £1 billion

Exclusive bank accounts — by invitation only

Susan Emmett finds out what it takes to get an overdraft on the same terms as the elite

It's not a portly man in a red suit that City whiz-kids wait for each Christmas but a fat cheque from their bosses. This year traders, fund managers and analysts are in line for end-of-year bonuses that could total up to £1 billion, nearly a third more than they received last year. Star performers could be getting bonuses as high as three or four times their base salaries.

These are the eligible customers with whom banks have long been wanting to build a lasting relationship. In the extravagant Eighties, those worthy of their red braces might have considered joining a private bank.

Their more modest Nineties counterparts may dispense with ostentatious displays of wealth, but as salaries continue to grow, many are seeking higher levels of personal service from their banks than they normally receive with an ordinary high street bank account.

Barclays, Lloyds and NatWest offer exclusive packages to cajole the well-off with the extra service of a personal manager. But their Premier, Gold and Advantage Premier accounts are available only to those earning above a certain limit, although within reach of most professionals.

John Freeman, managing director of Barclays Premier, said: "We are the business class end rather than the first class if you think in terms of an aeroplane."

QUALIFYING

Lloyds Bank Gold is open to anyone earning at least £20,000 a year or if both account holders have a joint annual income of £30,000 or more.

NatWest's Advantage Premier has more stringent criteria. It is available only to those with salaries of more than £50,000, while Barclays Premier will settle for those with an income of £40,000.

Both banks will allow younger clients to join if their gross annual income is greater in thousands of pounds than their age. However, membership of the Premier club is by invitation only and customers are only approached to join if the bank believes that they are suitable.

Even mavericks such as Virgin Direct have their own form of cherry-picking. Its new One account, which combines a current account and a mortgage, will be available in the new year but is out of reach to those with mortgages of less than £50,000. That is two thirds of homeowners, according to the Council of Mortgage Lenders. But while Virgin's selling point is a "revolutionary" new service, the high street banks are sticking to the conventional.

Free travel insurance, Gold service plastic cards, commission-free currency, purchase protection and preferential overdraft treatment are part of the package deals at NatWest and Lloyds. NatWest also gives air miles with its gold MasterCard chargecard (debit card).

But the highlight of these exclusive services is the personal attention of your own banking manager, responsible for looking after your wealth. Barclays Premier account holders are on first name terms with their account managers who promise to meet you anywhere you please at any time that is convenient to you.

Simon Barnes, an insurance broker who has been a Premier customer for five years, has lunch regularly with his manager. "The way I live my life, travelling a lot, it's a good idea. They give me a very good service," he said. "It's good personal banking in the end."

However, the numbers of people opting for selective accounts remains relatively small. Most banks will not reveal what they term "financially sensitive" information, such as the number of people holding these accounts, but Barclays Premier has attracted 90,000 customers since its launch in 1994, only a tiny minority of their overall seven million current account holders.

COSTS

As with most exclusive clubs, the privilege comes at a price. Lloyds Gold, one of the older accounts, having been launched in 1990, is the cheapest at £8 a month.

However, the bank will waive the fee if account holders keep a minimum balance of £1,000. Barclays Premier now charges £10 a month having dramatically increased the fee in September from £50 a year. NatWest's Advantage Premier is the most expensive at £12.50 a month.

IS IT WORTH IT?

Neil Walkling, of *Which?*, the Consumers' Association magazine, does not think so. "Our view is that they are not worth bothering about for most people," he said.

"These sorts of packages make things less transparent for the consumer. You don't know whether you are getting a good deal. You don't need a load of gimmicks that have nothing to do with a current account."

Exclusive account holders may be paying for preferential treatment, but preferential bank rates are not part of the deal at Barclays. The credit rate for the Premier account is the same as an ordinary current account at 0.3 per cent a year. However, Lloyds and NatWest do offer more attractive tiered rates.

NatWest Advantage Premier pays 0.75 per cent a year on credit balances of less than £2,000 compared with 0.25 per cent a year for their ordinary accounts. Rates go up to 2.5 per cent for balances of more than £10,000. Lloyds Gold pays 1 per cent for credit balances of less than £5,000 compared with 0.3 per cent for the Classic account. Those with more than £10,000 are paid 2.75 per cent.

However, emphasising the personalised nature of these selective accounts, Barclays says overdraft arrangements are between the customer and the account manager. There are no formal charges and limits are made on a case basis.

Lloyds highlights that it offers special overdraft terms and a £100 overdraft waiver. At NatWest, preferential rates apply to both overdraft borrowing of at least £2,500 at 10 per cent and loans at 9.75 per cent.

PERKS

NatWest offers additional "lifestyle" perks, including 25 per cent off dinners for four at more than 500 restaurants, a theatre booking service with 25 per cent discount on selected West End theatre seats and a wine delivery service. And if the service fails to live up to expectations, NatWest even offers a 90-day money-back guarantee.

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Gavin Lumsden looks at the Prudential report on mis-selling and asks what to consider when buying a financial product

Pru's attention turns to savers after FSA rap

Prudential is planning to write to some of its customers to find out whether they have been mis-sold savings plans. The move from the Prudential, the UK's biggest insurance company, is in the wake of unprecedented criticism from the Financial Services Authority (FSA) this week.

A visit to Prudential by officials from the FSA earlier this year revealed severe failures in management. The FSA said that the Prudential's direct salesforce had a culture of non-compliance. It also said that the company had failed to rectify some of the shortcomings that had already been identified by the Securities and Investments Board (SIB), the forerunner to the FSA.

John Elbourne, Prudential managing director, said: "We will have to sample on a historic basis some of the policies that have been sold." In particular, the regulatory spotlight has fallen on the Prudential's with-profits savings schemes, which are constructed as life insurance plans.

These products are particularly suitable for investors who do not want to take very much risk with their hard-earned money. However, one of the drawbacks to life insurance products is that the funds themselves are taxed in the hands of the company. Non-taxpayers are unable to claim this tax back, which makes them unsuitable.

The FSA claims that Prudential salesman are guilty of selling these bonds to non-taxpayers. The regulator was also concerned that Prudential had been selling new pension plans to those who already had pension plans — a top-up plan may have been more appropriate.

Mr Elbourne has emphasised that if the company finds that mis-selling has occurred then customers will not be disadvantaged.

This report from the FSA effectively accused the country's largest insurer of letting its 5000-strong direct-sales force run amok among the public.

Rubbing salt on the wounds, the FSA said Pru's management had demonstrated a long-standing failure to recognise the problems and the company exhibited a cultural disposition against compliance with rules and regulations.

CAROLINE MERRELL

Salesmen under pressure

The damning report into the running of the Prudential has put the spotlight on the way that financial services are sold in Britain. There is particular focus on the activities of insurance company representatives and salesmen, intermediaries who can only sell the products of one company. They must sell, or lose their commission-based livelihoods. Cutbacks in salesforce numbers have added to the pressure being applied to these hapless middlemen, with rumours in the industry of impossible targets being set for salesmen.

Although many banks and insurers are developing their links with independent financial advisers (IFAs) or are setting up high-tech call centres with which to reach the public directly and more cheaply, the expectations placed on traditional salesmen remain considerable.

Last year NatWest Life came close to selling its 1,400 life insurance salesforce after a disappointing 1995. Instead it introduced performance-related pay to encourage its staff. In theory the changes meant NatWest financial advisers, who are based in most of the bank's branches, can earn unlimited amounts in bonuses. However, insiders claim the change has created a climate of fear where good financial advice is endangered. One salesman who works in the South East says many of his colleagues have had £2,000 docked from their pay and been given formal warnings for missing quarterly self-imposed targets. Morale has plummeted while staff turnover has soared.

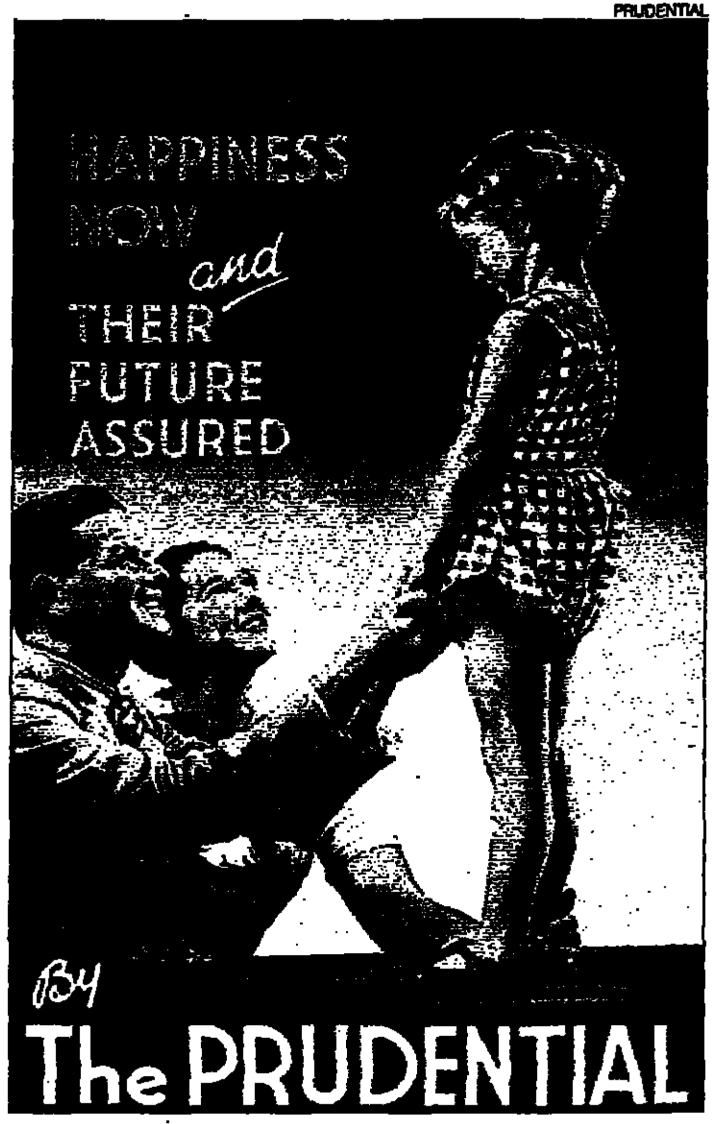
He claims advisers in his region are required to make an average of six and a half sales a week, split equally between life insurance, pensions and investment. This is an extremely demanding target considering each sale requires at least two meetings with customers lasting 60 to 90 minutes each. "I've got to do a fact-find and make an assessment on each individual. I can't predict what I will sell. Some of my colleagues are simply order-taking — if they get a sniff of a sale, they'll go for it. Somebody walks in with £20 surplus on their weekly budget and they'll be sold life insurance because you can buy that with a £20 premium, whether they need it or not."

Lawrence Churchill, managing director of NatWest Life, said: "Affordability is a key part of the regulations we have to conform to. If there is any allegation that unsuitable products are being sold then I am naturally concerned and would want to learn more about it." He denied the existence of a six-and-a-half weekly target, saying the salesforce was making five sales per week per adviser and had had a good year. However, he admitted even this target was higher than most of the industry. Surveys from the investor watchdog have pointed out the limitations of distributing financial services through salesforces, evidence that salesmen make more unsuitable sales. Policyholders cancel their contracts and suffer financial loss.

Recently the Personal Investment Authority (PIA) showed that up to a third of all life insurance, pensions and savings policies bought by the public three years ago had lapsed. Millions were lost as most of the money paid into these policies would have been swallowed up in charges. Although people's circumstances change — sickness and unemployment are two reasons why many policies are cashed in early — just as often people are sold products they do not need or can ill-afford. The PIA's report showed people who take independent financial advice hold on to their policies longer, presumably because they want what they have bought.

Even financial services companies recognise that IFAs are better distributors of their products. The past six years have seen an exodus from the financial services industry as sackings and compulsory retraining have pushed the number of salesmen down from 193,000 to just 58,100. However, this drastic rationalisation often puts intolerable pressure on the remaining sales teams. This then creates huge potential danger for unwary customers.

PRUDENTIAL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WHAT TO ASK BEFORE SIGNING

WHEN buying a policy or a pension, we have listed nine questions the National Consumers Council recommends you ask any financial adviser before parting with your money. The more research you do the better armed you will be.

- Are you able to give me advice on a range of suppliers or just one company?
- What happens if I drop out early from the product? Will I get back all the money I paid?
- My income could fluctuate. What happens if I have to reduce my payments for a month or so or have to stop paying altogether for a short while?
- There seems to be a range of products that could be suitable for me. How does the commission you would get vary between the alternatives?
- What proportion are the charges on the products of the amount I am thinking of saving or investing? Is this high compared with other products?
- What is the worst-case scenario for what could happen to this product?
- What are the arrangements if the product fails in any way or if the company goes bust?
- Do you know if there are any other products on the market that are as good or better as the one you are reccommending?
- Is there any independent information I could see on how the product compares with those on the market?

How free is your life insurance company?

How secure are the payouts on your endowment policy or with-profits bond? A survey published earlier this month reveals which companies have the financial strength to underpin future payouts — and which are more vulnerable.

The survey, by *Money Marketing* and KPMG, the accountant, measures the "free asset ratio" of a life insurance firm taken from information supplied to the Department of Trade and Industry. Free assets are the amount a company has above its possible liabilities.

The figures are shrouded in actuarial jargon, but are able to indicate which life offices have greater freedom to make adventurous investments. Those that are strapped for cash tend to put their money into fixed-interest gilts and low-risk investments, while those with funds well in excess of their liabilities can take a longer-term view and opt for equities.

Bottom of the table (as of December 31, 1996) is Britannia Life, with a free asset ratio of just one sixth of the industry average. Only last week Britannia announced that it was axeing 400 jobs and withdrawing from selling products through independent financial advisers because it did not believe it could compete profitably in the long term.

Britannia's ratio of 1.9 per cent is markedly lower than other offices in the table. But John Jenkins, KPMG principal consultant, who compiled the figures for *Money Marketing*, says it is right to ask questions about any company with a ratio below 10 per cent. "Anything above 10 per cent seems quite comfortable, but if it is below 10 per cent you are justified in asking further questions."

Unfortunately for policyholders, nearly one third of the 35 life companies in the survey have ratios below 10 per cent, including well-known names such as Equitable Life, NPI, Scottish Mutual and Scottish Life.

Craig Wetton, an IFA at Chartwell Investment Management, says financial advisers look closely at a life office's financial strength before recommending its products. He said: "You have to look at the strength of a company to see if it can meet future obligations. If it gets its investment policy wrong, it needs to have the resources to maintain its solvency."

Equitable Life robustly defends its free asset ratio figure, the third lowest of the companies surveyed, and one that fell last year while the average for the industry rose, if only slightly.

Nigel Webb, director of corporate affairs, said: "We operate a full distribution policy. It is policyholders' money — why should you keep back money for future generations?" He also argues that the way the figures are calculated flatters slow-growing companies. "We have been the biggest writer of new business over the past few years and have a lot of young business on the books."

NPI says it, too, has been paying profits out rather than hoarding cash, while Scottish Mutual (owned by Abbey National) and Scottish Life point to analysis by Standard & Poor's, the ratings agency, which awarded them a financial strength rating of AA and A+ respectively.

But Mr Wetton insists that the trend of a company's financial strength is important. "The lower the ratio falls, the more vulnerable is a company to short-term market volatility. A company with a very low ratio could come unstuck."

Standard Life, which has a free asset ratio significantly above the industry average, says that without the cushion of free assets it could not pursue a flexible investment policy. Iain Lumsden, group finance director, said: "Our ratio enables us to keep a high proportion of our funds in equities and obtain higher long-term returns. But we have not had to raise our free asset ratio for five years or more and have not had to take a bean from policyholders."

PATRICK COLLINSON

Standard Life joins the telebanking revolution

The savings war intensified this week as Standard Life, one of the UK's biggest life insurance companies, unveiled plans for its bank. The Edinburgh insurer has become the latest financial institution to realise the potential of offering a telephone banking service.

With no expensive branch network to support, the new breed of telephone banks can afford to offer much better rates on their deposit accounts than their branch-based counterparts. Sainsbury's, Tesco, Prudential, Scottish Widows and Virgin Direct have all unveiled telephone banking ventures, offering competitive rates, although Virgin customers must have a mortgage of at least £50,000 with the company.

Standard Life's new telephone-based service pays a rate of 6.76 per cent on balances of as little as £1. This is more than Tesco and J Sainsbury, which pay 6.5 per cent on accounts of £1.

Jim Spowart, managing director of Standard Life Bank, said the account will remain competitive because, as a direct service, it will not have to maintain a branch network.

The announcement this week followed the Halifax's decision to raise the rates for its 15 million savers. Rates on the Halifax's liquid gold instant access account have risen by only 0.15 per cent. A balance of £1 in this account will pay 0.5 per cent. The most anyone can earn from a Halifax instant access account is 4.65 per cent, on balances of more than £25,000 — 2.1 per cent lower than the lowest rate offered by Standard Life. Savings of more than £25,000 with the Scottish insurer will attract a rate of 7.3 per cent — 2.65 per cent higher than the Halifax.

The group also plans to launch fixed-term savings accounts and will bring in mortages, followed by personal loans next summer.

Even after the rise in the new year, the Halifax will only offer a similar rate for balances of greater than £50,000 on its 60-day notice account.

Connecting you: now your bank is only a telephone call away

Rates will rise the furthest on the Halifax's Bonus Gold account, which requires a minimum of £10,000. The increase will be of 0.3 per cent for savers with £25,000 or more, who will be paid 6.6 per cent. Those saving £50,000 or more are paid 7 per cent, while balances of £100,000 benefit from a rate of 7.5 per cent.

Rates on other accounts, such as the 60-Day Gold, Liquid Gold and Solid Gold, will rise by up to 0.25 per cent. Liquid Gold will offer a rate of 4 per cent for balances between £500 and £2,500, while Solid Gold will pay 4.3 per cent to those who save more than £500 but less than £5,000. Rates for the 60-day service start at 5.6 per cent for £5,000 and rise to 7.2 per cent for £100,000 or more.

Young savers will also benefit from a 0.25 per cent rise. They will be getting a preferential rate of 5.25 per cent on balances of £1 or more, and Tessa 2 customers will also receive a 0.25 per cent increase. The rates will rise from 7.46 per cent to 7.71 per cent.

The new year will also see rate rises at First Direct and Midland Bank on January 5. By far the greatest increase at First Direct will be for Tessa savers. The rate goes up from 7.25 per cent to 7.75 per cent. Those with money in the High Interest Savings Account and the Direct Interest Savings Account will benefit from a rise of up to 0.25 per cent. The high interest account will pay 4.59 per cent for balances of less than £1,000, but the rate goes up to 5.11 per cent for sums between £2,500 and £24,999.

Midland Bank will pay 6 per cent for balances of up to £10,000 in the 90-day notice account, an increase of 0.6 per cent. But for other accounts the change is less spectacular. Balances of between £10,000 and £25,000 benefit from a rise of marginally less than 0.25, while there is no change at the lower tier. Rates go down by up to 0.75 per cent for those holding a 30-day account.

The Nationwide has also announced an across-the-board increase on savings accounts from mid-January but will not reveal the rates until nearer the time. A spokesman said: "We will look at what everbody else is doing to make sure we stay competitive."

Since the Bank of England raised rates to 7.25 per cent at the start of November, many banks and building societies have been putting up their rates on selected accounts. The Woolwich was one of many to increase rates at the beginning of this month. The changes included a 0.25 rise for the Card Savers Account to 7 per cent on balances of more than £50.

Lloyds, NatWest, Barclays, Northern Rock and Birmingham Midshires also raised rates at the start of December.

SUSAN EMMETT AND CAROLINE MERRELL

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Does a trust really have any advantage?

WEEKEND MONEY

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What happened to the man in the suit?

Gillian Cook: lower pension plan charges are not being passed on to the customers

Charges fears for stakeholder pensions plan

Fees that siphon up to 25% of payments may stifle Labour hopes, says

Anne Ashworth

The Government's cherished plan to offer low-cost, flexible pensions to the 8.5 million workers on low incomes may be jeopardised by the high administration and commission charges that are still the norm among life companies.

As the Department of Social Security finalises the blueprint for the new stakeholder pensions to be announced next month, *Personal Pension Unit Linked Survey 1997/98*, a report published this week by Bacon & Woodrow, the actuary, reveals that the charges at many insurance companies are not falling to levels that would make retirement saving cost-effective for the low-paid.

In some cases as much as 40 per cent is deducted from contributions, drastically reducing the final payout. Constant censure from both consumer groups and investor watchdogs has done little to cut charges. The Government's aim to reduce welfare payments to the elderly in the next century depends on the success of the stakeholder pension. Ministers have been critical of the high-charge culture in the life industry, citing instances where one pound out of every four contributed to a pension plan is gobbled up in administration charges and commission to salesmen.

Bacon & Woodrow's report coincides with a damning survey showing that charges have allowed life companies to pocket an estimated £500 million in tax relief from two million personal pension plan holders since 1991. These customers, who have either transferred their pensions or let them lapse, have seen their contributions, tax relief and investment returns wiped out by initial fund charges. Figures from Direct Line, the insurer, which is preparing to enter the pensions market, show that up to two million people, paying an average of £800 a year each into a pension plan, had lost the value of their tax relief.

Bacon & Woodrow points out that companies are not making every attempt to lower their charges. Gillian Cook, a senior consultant at the firm and co-author of the report said: "Personal pension charges dropped when the disclosure rules were introduced in 1995. Fierce competition in the industry was also a factor. But for the past two years companies have not been passing on their own lower expenses to policyholders."

Calculations by the firm show the huge impact of charges on various types of personal pension, with the effects being multiplied if policyholders cease to make payments to their plans. For example, someone contributing £100 a month to a Britannia Life pension over 15 years would lose 13.17 per cent of every premium paid over the period.

The effect of charges levied on group personal pensions, schemes covering groups of employees at a single organisation, show that anyone paying £100 a month into a Winterthur Life plan for seven years and collecting their pension at the end of 20 years will have lost 24.1 per cent of every premium.

Miss Cook said that, for some policyholders, the charges could be higher, as the Bacon & Woodrow figures were based on a pension arranged through an independent financial adviser receiving a fee rather than commission for his services.

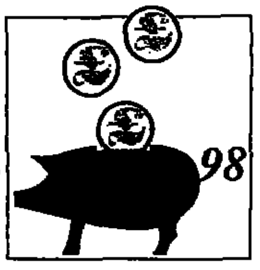
The Bacon & Woodrow survey grades personal pensions first on their investment performance and then on their charging structure. The 27 pension providers that met the rigorous performance criteria were then required to provide information on their charges.

For the second year running Bacon & Woodrow finds that life insurance companies investing personal pension money compare badly with the institutions investing company pension cash. Nine of the life insurance funds in Bacon & Woodrow's top performance quartile have had their management subcontracted to institutional managers.

Paradoxically, top performance may not be accompanied by low charges. In some cases, funds with top quartile investment performance, such as the Prudential MPP Discretionary Fund, are offered by companies with steep charges.

Personal Pension Unit-Linked Survey 1997/98, £550, available from Bacon & Woodrow (0171-357 7171).

INSIDE



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WEEKEND MONEY is edited by Anne Ashworth

Brown stirs up talk of an increase in national insurance

Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, has refused to rule out changes to national insurance contributions, prompting speculation that he is preparing to raise contribution levels in the Budget next March.

Such a move would enable Mr Brown to take some heat out of the economy without raising income tax. It would also allow him to allocate extra money for the health service and welfare benefits if the Prime Minister were facing pressure from the Parliamentary Labour Party to increase public spending.

Maurice Fitzpatrick, a senior tax partner with Chantrey Vellacott, the accountants, believes that the increases could mean anyone earning £24,180 might end up paying £210 extra each year, while higher earners could find themselves paying thousands of pounds in extra contributions.

Mr Brown has pledged in the election manifesto not to change basic or higher-rate income tax, and reiterated that pledge this week in the presence of MPs from the Treasury Select Committee. The Labour backbencher Charles Clarke asked Mr Brown to rule out the possibility of imposing VAT on essentials such as food, children's clothing and public transport, which he did. However, when pressed to rule out any changes to employer or employee national insurance contributions, Mr Brown said that changes were not ruled out.

■ **What you pay.** National insurance contributions have to be paid by any employee earning more than £62 a week or £3,224 a year. You pay at 2 per cent on the first £62 of earnings and a further 10 per cent on earnings above this figure, up to the upper earnings limit of £24,180 a year. Employees who earn less than £62 a week pay no national insurance contributions.

■ **Potential changes.** The Chancellor may decide to raise the basic 10 per cent rate, and every 1 per cent increase above the current figure would yield the Treasury approximately £2.4 billion a year. This compares with putting 1p on the basic rate of income tax, which would raise around £1.8 billion a year.

Mr Fitzpatrick calculates that an employee earning £10,000 a year would pay an additional £68, an employee on £20,000 would pay an additional £168, and anyone earning £24,180 or more would pay an additional £210 a year.

■ **Earnings limits.** An alternative change would be to make contributions payable on earnings above £24,180. For example, someone on a salary of £30,000 a year would pay an additional £582 if the 10 per cent rate was payable on income above the current earnings limit.

For an employee earning £40,000 a year, the extra cost would be £1,582. Abolishing the upper earnings limit would raise about £3.5 billion per year.

■ **Alternatives.** Mr Fitzpatrick said another option for the Chancellor is to exclude earnings in a band between £24,180 and £45,000, and then impose a 10 per cent rate on all earnings above £45,000. The higher the Chancellor pitched the level at which contributions kicked in again, the less revenue he would gain.

Mr Fitzpatrick said: "This would be a neat way of answering any calls from the Parliamentary Labour Party to tax the rich a little more, without actually raising income tax.

"Raising national insurance contributions enables Mr Brown to collect extra revenue without breaking the promises he made before the election."

MARIANNE CURPHEY

Books reviewed by those who do

Starting your own business or becoming self-employed can be a very daunting proposition. There are a certain number of small agencies that help those who are interested in going it alone.

There are also an increasing number of books that give people guidance on how to become a business professional. Emma Bagnall (right), a 32-year-old freelance graphic designer from London, and Ken Wilson, who runs a recruitment business, reviewed six books aimed at helping the self-employed to start their own businesses.

The books were determined by leading bookstores, which selected the titles that had the biggest sales.

The two gave a ringing endorsement of approval to the *Lloyds Bank Small Business Guide*. Both gave it a much higher rating than the others.

The Financial Times — Mastering Enterprise, although more than twice as expensive, was not so favourably reviewed by our critics. They found it hard to understand, and not particularly suitable for someone just starting up in business.

They also gave a low rating to *The Essence of Small Business*, published by Prentice Hall. Again they criticised the book for being too complicated to understand.

Go-it-Alone, page 54

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THE TIMES
WEEKEND
SATURDAY DECEMBER 20 1997

O come, all ye pop pickers

There's no sure-fire formula for a Christmas No 1, but every wise man in the record business dreams all year of the miracle hit. **Trevor Dann** tells what it takes

Deck the halls with boughs of holly; 'tis the season of great folly... For eleven months of every year the music business strives to be cool and stylish, but in December it goes completely Tinky Winky.

Christmas records. Bah! Humbug! Only Alan Partridge really wants to play them on the radio, but tune around the dial today and you can't escape them, even on Radio 1 which has resurrected its Sleighlist (sic) for the first time since 1994.

"So here it is, Merry Christmas." "So this is Christmas and what have you done." "I wish it could be Christmas everyday."

It's the annual miracle of Christmas. The wise men of EMI, Sony, Warners and the rest follow a bright pound sign in the sky which leads them to a large pot of gold. Sales for a Christmas No 1 one can be as much as three times those of a chart-topper during the rest of the year. And with singles sales bouncing back from their early-1990s trough, there are millions of pounds to be made from a successful marketing campaign in December.

So what makes a Christmas No 1? Hardly a soul in the record industry doesn't think he knows. But on the evidence of the past 40 years it's difficult to find a sure-fire formula. It's *not* true, for instance, that seasonal chart-toppers always have a festive message. Jackie Wilson's re-release of *Reet Petite* (1986), Pink Floyd's *Another Brick in the Wall* (1979), the Beatles' *I Feel Fine* (1965) and Conway Twitty's *It's Only Make Believe* (1958) would probably have been hits at any time of the year. But most of the Christmas No 1s do fall into one of three categories.

Sloppy Songs: these are the records with romantic lyrics which strike a sentimental chord during the season of goodwill. Last year it was *2 Become 1* by the Spice Girls. In

Continued on page 3, col 1

RICHARD FAULKS

The best outside bet for the Christmas No 1 record has it all: "children, charity and a good chune". *I Am in Love with the World*, by the Chicken Shed Theatre Company, is a tribute to Diana, Princess of Wales

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"MMMM. I QUITE FANCY MANAGING MAN. CITY."

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Talking turkey with Mr Bootiful

At 20, Bernard Matthews paid £1 for 20 eggs – now he's worth £70 million, says **Rohan Daft**

MARTIN SPAVEN

After his early success, Bernard Matthews bought Great Witchingham Hall, in Norfolk, for £3,000. Turkeys used to be hatched in the dining room, reared in the bedrooms and slaughtered in the kitchens

Of the three million Bernard Matthews turkeys that will find their way to the nation's dining tables this Christmas, one stands out. "It is my personal turkey," Mr Matthews says. "Somebody will have chosen it on my behalf in the past few weeks. It won't have been given any special feed, but it will be a certain size of bird: about 18lb or 19lb."

This makes it a good 7lb heavier than the average Bernard Matthews turkey. In every way, a heavyweight bird for a heavyweight man.

Mr Matthews has been Britain's Mr Turkey for the past 20 years or more and, with his ruddy, ox-like charm, he is surprisingly regarded on some parts of the Continent as a sex symbol — even at 67.

He started dealing in turkeys part-time when he was 20 to augment his income as an auctioneer's clerk. "I saw 20 turkey eggs for sale, which I purchased for a shilling [5p] each. By coincidence, there was also a small paraffin incubator for sale, which I bought for £1 10s," he says. "I cycled home with the eggs and the incubator on the back of my bike and set up a small hatchery in the garden shed.

"Twelve eggs hatched and after four weeks I had to sell the turkeys to a local farmer because I couldn't afford to feed them any longer. I sold them for 15s each — and that was the foundation of my business."

Local, as if you didn't know from those "bootiful" television advertisements of the front of his Great Witchingham Hall headquarters, is Norfolk. Now, 47 years on and with his East Anglian burr still splendidly intact, he produces 20 million turkeys a year, grown in sheds of 15,000 each. If the sheds were placed end to end, they would stretch for about 40 miles.

The Matthews empire is built around processing. Nine-tenths of its earnings come from Golden Drummers, Kievs, Dinosaurs and the like; only a small proportion of his business produces oven-ready turkeys for Christmas.

Mr Matthews was the son of an often out-of-work motor engineer. The youngest by some years of four children, he won a scholarship to Norwich Grammar School and left at 16 to join a firm of auctioneers.

After his initial success in the turkey business, he splashed out £3,000 on Great Witchingham Hall, once the home of an 18th-century man of letters, John Norris, but by then mostly dilapidated, and filled its 35 rooms with turkeys. They were hatched in the dining room, reared in the Jacobean bedrooms and slaughtered in the kitchens.

"The Grinling Gibbons carvings had to go to keep the turkeys," says a friend. "The house was refurbished when things got better."

In 1958, he bought his first disused airfield. The concrete runway was ideally suited for turkey houses — aerodromes were secure and isolated — and he acquired a further five. Instead of producing a big plump bird, he bred a smaller turkey that could fit in the oven — and took the oven-ready market by storm.

Then he set about making the turkey an all-year round non-luxury product. He chopped it up and repackaged the bits, and invented the individual portion, patenting all his products. After this came the turkey roast, involving meat mechanically stripped from the bone.

Turkey became the cheapest form of meat that factory farming could produce — even cheaper than pet food. Many a frozen bird exchanged hands for 29p per pound during a price war in late 1994. The range, the variety and the prices of turkeys were found to be so confusing that one consumer rang the British Turkey Information Service for advice on "how to thaw a fresh turkey". This was hardly surprising given the marketing drivel with "fresh", "farm fresh", "traditional farm fresh", "fresh frozen", "frozen oven-ready", "frozen with water" and "ready basted" turkeys in the supermarkets.

Mr Matthews takes pride in providing cheap food for the masses. "When I started," he says, "it took the equivalent of two weeks' pay of one of my workers for me to give them enough money to buy a turkey for Christmas. It now takes about one hour. That is how the world has changed."

Much of the increased sales came after Mr Matthews called in Ogilvy & Mather, the advertising agency, which came up with a campaign starring him as a tweed-suited farmer. Sales of some products increased twenty-fold, but Mr Matthews is still shy of the bootiful ads. "I hate watching myself on television; hearing myself speak. I find it very embarrassing," he says.

Despite the high profile, his cheery personality has yet to penetrate every dining room. When he went to Buckingham Palace to collect his CBE from the Queen, she asked him which part of the poultry business he was in. "I said, turkeys. She said, 'Where do you come from?' and I replied, 'Norfolk'. Then she said, 'Ah, a lot of turkeys come from Norfolk'." He says it was a "bootiful occasion".

> 'In France, says a friend, Bernard Matthews is a sex symbol. There they ask, *Où est Bernard?*'

Turkeys have been good to Mr Matthews, despite two prosecutions for river pollution from his turkey sheds, and the threats from the animal liberationists which mean he has to keep a retinue of security guards at his home. He drives a Rolls-Royce and has sold his enormous yacht, *Bellissima*, but still owns a villa in the South of France.

He hobnobs with members of the Royal Family as a result of his involvement in charities, particularly the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme. When Prince Edward and Sophie Rhys-Jones were photographed looking grumpy on the Côte d'Azur last summer, they were said to be staying at Mr Matthews's holiday home.

He likes France. "There," says a friend, "Bernard Matthews is a sex symbol. '*Où est Bernard?*' they ask."

He has been separated for some years from his wife, Joyce, who helped him start the business, but is not divorced. They have three adopted children who, after the split, stayed with Joyce, and Mr Matthews has one other son, Frederick, by a seemingly nameless Dutch woman.

He is a private man, but not without friends. One describes him as a "a nice and amiable man, a generous host and a very good cook". He is a true gourmet. Caviare and foie gras are often on the table, even though he still tastes products at his factories most days of the week. He cooks the best lobster — stuns it first and then grills it.

Mr Matthews can afford such tastes. He was ranked 266th in *The Sunday Times* Rich List 1997, with a personal fortune of £70 million.

The turkeys that have done all of this for him come from one breed, he says. "A white bird, because it's easier to pluck. If you have a bird with black feathers, sometimes a few feathers get left on the skin. It's not so pretty as seeing a bird that looks clean."

But this most famous breed of turkey is sadly bereft of any sort of fancy name. "It's just got a number: it's called a Big 6," he explains. "It's a British bird, bred by a British turkey-breeding company."

BERNARD MATTHEWS'S **TURKEY TIPS**

- **Which turkey is best? "I prefer a white-feathered British bird; it's better for plucking."**
- **Which is the best part, leg or breast? "Leg, it's a bit more tasty."**
- **Trimmings? "I have the lot — sausages, chestnut stuffing in the front and sausage meat stuffing with onion and thyme in the back."**
- **Stuffing? "Don't over-stuff at the back; the bird will take longer to cook."**
- **Cooking? "Roast with the breast down, so that the juices run into the breast. Turn for the last 15 minutes to brown the breast."**
- **And what's the best thing to do with any leftovers? "Make a turkey curry."**

RARELY BRED TURKEYS

CRAIG KNOWLES

The Northampton Bourbon Red (left), originally bred in America, and one of the last ten pure-bred, colourful Crollwitzes, known as the "Slate and Lavender" turkey

Too overweight even to mate properly

Sally Smith on the welcome return of a really tasty turkey

ALBAN DONAHOE

Patricia Graham with a Norfolk Black — a breed that was saved by her father

Like a bosomy dowager on stilettos, the modern turkey finds it difficult to keep its balance. The problem is all that white breast meat. The weight piles on in front but, with nothing much to counterbalance it at the rear end — the parson's noses not being in such demand — walking is a trial. So much so, indeed, that the massive bird which graces so many tables at this time of year has probably spent most of its life sitting down.

Nor does the graceless creature even have the consolation of natural mating — now impossible because of the changes to its rear end brought about by the broadening of its body shape.

"Its 'vent' is in a different place," explains Patricia Graham, a breeder of Norfolk Black turkeys. "The breast is back between its legs, and so it can only stomp about, not walk properly."

This "big, round lump", as she describes it, is a world away from the birds which her family has been raising since the last century. Her Norfolk Black turkeys differ little from the lean, athletic, gamey black birds brought back from South America via Spain to East Anglia in 1492 by Niño Pedro. They were imported to the region because its inhabitants had grown rich on the wool trade. "Records show that by 1555 turkeys were being sold in Suffolk markets," Mrs Graham says. "The bronze turkey came in a little later, brought from Hudson Bay by Sebastian Cabot."

By 1880 Mrs Graham's grandfather, George Peele, and her great-uncle Ernest were rearing Norfolk Blacks on their farm near Wymondham in Norfolk. She has pictures of the great steam-driven dray which carried the rough-plucked birds in baskets up to London for the Christmas market, a round journey of 14 days.

Before that they walked — it was a gentle three-month stroll to Smithfield — gleaning corn from the stubble fields, grass from the roadsides and berries from the hedgerows; and once they reached the table the birds were, of course, tasty and gamey from the exercise.

It was the next generation, Mrs Graham's father Frank, who saved the breed. A founder member of the Norfolk Black Turkey Club, he suffered a devastating loss in December 1958 when his flock got fowl pest and had to be slaughtered. The following spring he went from farm to smallholding, rounding up as many Norfolk Blacks as he could find. "It was a mish-mash of birds," says Mrs Graham, "but of course they were ideal for breeding because there were so many bloodlines."

It is from this base that the present flock has grown — handsome, glossy, black-feathered birds selected to give a little more breast meat, although they are still high-breasted like a pheasant.

As sales started to decline for this old-fashioned variety so Frank Graham's enthusiasm and determination to keep it going increased, intensifying when it was designated "a rare breed" in 1976.

"It wasn't just that the turkey was small and had less breast meat than the large white birds that the supermarkets wanted," Mrs Graham says. "The black feathers left little black stubs in the skin which people found off-putting."

When her father died in 1980, she and her mother, Gertrude, kept a nucleus of 40 breeding birds and continued to produce the Christmas turkey for discerning customers from the family farm at Thuxton in Norfolk. Her son, James, inherited the Peele genes and took on his grandfather's business. In 1989, in a change in fashion, people wanted a bird which wouldn't lead to groans of surfeit when it appeared in yet another manifestation on the twelfth day of Christmas.

The business remains small. The birds hatch in May and June and mature slowly. In autumn they forage for acorns and blackberries which add variety to their diet of corn and beans which are grown on the farm, and a little pea shingle or "roughage" to aid digestion. The birds are then plucked and hung to develop the taste further.

This kind of rearing means that these birds are more expensive than the faster-growing supermarket variety, but it pays off; by the beginning of December this year almost every Peele bird was spoken for.

Not everyone wants them for the table. One female customer came to buy a Norfolk Black to use as a security guard. Her previous "guard", which used to travel with her in her car, had lived to the ripe old age of 12 and was, she insisted, every bit as effective at warning off intruders as a goose. And, no doubt, just as delicious.

Solution and Notes to Listener Crossword No 3438
A Jigsaw Puzzle by Radix

Every jigsaw clue led to a SAW which had to dance a JIG before entry. These saws were all of a kind (i.e. they are cutting in a literal sense) except for EPIGRAM (which can be cutting, but only metaphorically).

A. BAND: BAN-D; B. CHAIN: CHAI-N; C. CIRCULAR: UL in CIRCAR; D. COMPASS: COMP(LETE)-ASS(AIL); E. CROSSCUT: CROSS-CUT; F. EPIGRAM: E-PIG-RAM; G. FLOORING: FLOO(ZIES)-RING; H. FRAME: RAM in FE; I. GANG: hidden; K. HACK: two meanings; L. HAND: HAN-D; M. KEYHOLE: KEY-HOLE; N. LOG: two meanings; O. PAD: P-AD; P. PANEL: PAN-EL; Q. PRUNING: RUN-IN in PG; R. RIBBON: BON-RIB; S. RIP: two meanings; T. SCROLL: SC-ROLL; U. SKIP-TOOTH: KIP-T in SOOTH; V. STONE: TON in SE; W. SWEEP: S-WEE-P; X. TREPAN: REP in TAN; Y. TREPHINE: anagram; Z. TURNING: anagram.

FURTHER ANSWERS: 1. ENTRAP: PARTNE(R) reversed. PISTOL: LOT-SIP reversed; 2. HOT: Ho-T(HERE). OPEN-ARMED: anagram; 3. FANG: hidden. SKULLCAP: SKULL-CAP; 4. PIPAGE: GAP reversed in PIE. ROSSER: anagram of (H)ORSE(I)S plus R; 5. COCKY: two meanings. SOOTHER: SO-OTHER; 6. GLOBIN: G(ADUS)-LOB-IN. THELMA: anagram; 7. ALCAICS: anagram. BRING: BR-I-NG; 8. CHURCH: CH-URCH(IN)&Lit. PREAMP: P-R-E-AMP&Lit; 9. INBORN: hidden. KURGAN: UR in K(REMENCHU)G plus AN; 10. NORI: IRON reversed. TRINIDAD: composite anagram (I=island); 11. SONGFUL: anagram. WENCH: WEN-CH; 12. PESANTE: (A)PES-ANTE. PRING: P-RING

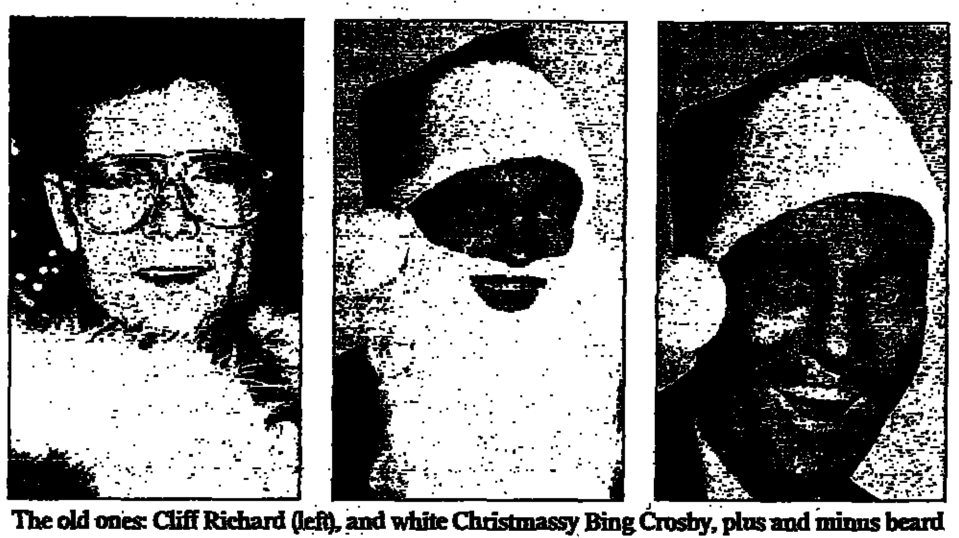
Winner: A. Jones, Ilford, Essex. Runners-up: D. Frances Milne, Shepton Mallet, Somerset; Bernard Grabowksi, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire; Roger Naylor, Bradford, West Yorkshire; A & F.A. Todkill, Swindon, Wiltshire; H.S.M Massey, Brimpsfield, Gloucestershire.

1	P	I	S	T	O	L	E	N	T	R	A	P
2	H	O	T	O	P	E	N	A	R	M	E	D
3	S	K	U	L	L	C	A	P	F	A	N	G
4	R	O	S	S	E	R	P	I	P	A	G	E
5	C	O	C	K	Y	S	O	O	T	H	E	R
6	T	H	E	L	M	A	G	L	O	B	I	N
7	A	L	C	A	I	C	S	B	R	I	N	G
8	C	H	U	R	C	H	P	R	E	A	M	P
9	K	U	R	G	A	N	I	N	B	O	R	N
10	T	R	I	N	I	D	A	D	N	O	R	I
11	W	E	N	C	H	S	O	N	G	F	U	L
12	P	E	S	A	N	T	E	P	R	I	N	G

هكذا من الإصل

Christmas cheer: Spice Girls "Ginger" Geri (left), "Scary" Mel B, "Posh" Victoria and . . .

. . . "Baby" Emma (left) and "Sporty" Mel C. Right: Mr Blobby, the pud of Christmas 1993



The old ones: Cliff Richard (left), and white Christmassy Bing Crosby, plus and minus beard

PICTORIAL PRESS/CAMERA PRESS/LFI

Everybody remembers the band Slade, but, almost hard to believe, their last Christmas hit was way back in 1973 with *Merry Xmas Everybody*

Continued from page 1

1994 it was *Stay Another Day* by East 17. The mistletoe did good business in 1992, while Whitney Houston bawled her way through Dolly Parton's *I Will Always Love You*. In 1987, office parties swayed to the Pet Shop Boys' electro version of *Always On My Mind*.

Novelty Songs: God save us, merry gentlemen. Here are the songs we never want to hear again — most of us never wanted to hear them in the first place, but somehow they caught the imagination of record buyers. Is any torture worse than three minutes of *Long-Haired Lover from Liverpool* by Little Jimmy Osmond (1972), or *Two Little Boys* by Rolf Harris (1969)? Given the choice between *Mr Blobby* (1993) and a molar extraction, who wouldn't choose the dental option?

As for *There's No One Quite Like Grandma* by St Winifred's School Choir (1980), all the appropriate descriptions start with the words "complete load of old. . ."

New carols: fewer and fewer of these are made each year now that the record companies have realised that phoney Christmas spirit isn't as potent as it used to be. The Seventies was the great decade for sprinkling tinsel on the hi-fi, giving us Slade's *Merry Xmas Everybody* (1973) and Mud's *Lonely This Christmas* (1974), as well as Wizzard's *I Wish It Could Be Christmas Every Day* (No 4 in 1973) and Greg Lake's *I Believe in Father Christmas* (No 2 in 1975), which have become annual turntable hits ever since.

The ubiquitous Cliff Richard has been responsible for two No 1s in this genre, *Mistletoe and Wine* in 1989 and *Saviour's Day* two years later, both fine examples of the kind of quasi-religious *schmaltz* that would be laughed out of *Top of the Pops* and into *Songs of Praise* at any other time of the year.

Also in this category are the two songs which have twice reached No 1 at Christmas — *Mary's Boy Child*, courtesy of Harry Belafonte (1957) and Boney M (1978), and *Do They Know It's Christmas?* by Band Aid (1984) and Band Aid II (1989).

The importance of the *Christmas No 1 is hyped* up every year by the national newspapers and the betting chains. They portray it as a battle between competing bands or singers, but in truth it's a fight between the marketing departments of the leading record companies. As in the trumped-up 1996 chart duel between Oasis and Blur — "won" by Blur because their record was price discounted — the victor will be the company with the best promotion and marketing campaign.

The first thing the promoters need is television and radio exposure. Check your Christmas listings to see how many Spice Girls programmes have been scheduled, and then ask yourself whether they have anything to plug. Oh look, a movie (opening Boxing Day), an album (*Spice World*, currently No 2) and a contender for No 1 single (*Too Much*). Holding back the single release date to avoid the Teletubbies will probably pay off for Virgin Records.

Rolf Harris with Bonnie Langford, and Johnny Mathis

The felt "fab four" themselves may have peaked and they can't use the old "Our real fans are buying the album" excuse, because there isn't one. Yet. But the combination of a massive television profile and the potential for tantrums from disappointed three-year-olds on December 25 may be enough to keep Teletubbies' *Say Eh-Oh* at the top for another teeth-grinding week. The BBC is having a good Christmas. Even if it's pipped for the big one, it will have had two December No 1s — the Teletubbies, which bears the BBC imprimatur but is marketed by the multinational BMG Records group, and the Band Aid-style version of *Perfect Day*, which started life as an advert for the corporation's television music policy and ended up as a charity single benefiting Children in Need.

Christmas is a big time for fund-raising records, so don't be surprised if *Perfect Day* or even Elton John's *Candle in the Wind '97* climb back up the chart next week.

Which brings us to the best outside bet for the Christmas No 1 this year. It has it all: children, charity and a good chune. *I Am in Love with the World* by the Chicken Shed Theatre Company is a tribute to Diana, Princess of Wales, recorded by one of her favourite charities. The singer, Lissa Hermans, co-wrote the song dedicated to the former patron of this drama group for disabled young people in North London. If it doesn't reach the top, it can point to the good job it's done promoting the Diana tribute album, on which the track appears and which will undoubtedly be the Christmas No 1 album of 1997.

Christmas No 1s are songs which sell to people who don't normally buy, and don't much care for music at all. Sales are high because many people who buy CDs or tapes as presents never visit a record store at any other time of the year. A much better judgment about the direction modern music is heading can be made in January when the typical year-round record buyer is back in the shops brandishing the record token or the contents of Santa's envelope, and the record companies are unveiling their new hopes for 1998 and consigning the tired old acts of Christmas '97 to the discount bins.

Everything good
to all of you
Elvis
and
The Colonel

Elvis Presley (left) had two No 1s — *It's Now or Never* and *Return to Sender*. George Michael awaits a Christmas hit

No 1 CHRISTMAS CRACKERS

BAND AID: Do They Know It's Christmas? (1984)
The who's who in pop during the Thatcher years unites behind former saint, Bob Geldof; great melody by Midge Ure.

CRYSTALS: Santa Claus is Coming to Town (1963)
A ferocious wall of sound created by Phil Spector for his classic Christmas album, the only consistently good one ever made.

FOUNTAINS OF WAYNE: I Want an Alien for Christmas (1997)
America's answer to Brit Pop, arty and artful guitar thrashing.

GREEDIES: A Merry Jingle (1979)
Phil Lynott leads this punk romp by an amalgamation of Thin Lizzy and the Sex Pistols.

***JOHN & YOKO/PLASTIC ONO BAND: Happy* Xmas (War Is Over) (1972)**
Still twinkling 25 years on: a Christmas message that never dates.

KEITH RICHARDS: Run Rudolph Run (1979)
Rolling Stone guitarist swaggers through the famous seasonal shuffle: a three-chord masterpiece.

POGUES/KIRSTY MacCOLL: Fairytale of New York (1987)
One of Shane MacGowan's finest lyrics *brought to life in a duet with the feisty* MacColl — "You scumbag, you maggot. . ."

BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN: Santa Claus is Coming to Town (1981)
The E Street band live on stage pay tribute to Phil Spector, staying just this side of twee.

U2: Christmas (Baby Please Come Home) (1987)
Another Spector classic, updated for the Special Olympics album; Bono's choral style given full rein.

WAITRESSES: Christmas Wrapping (1981)
From the marvellous Zee Records Xmas album: a genuinely funny and moving tale of life, love and cranberry sauce.

No 1 CHRISTMAS TURKEYS

BEACH BOYS: Little Saint Nick (1963)
The famous sound of sand, bikinis and woodies unsuited to a tale of chimneys, toys and reindeer. Could make a comeback if discovered by the less discriminating snowboarders.

DAVID BOWIE/BING CROSBY: Peace on Earth/Little Drummer Boy (1977)
Cringingly sentimental duet recorded for a Crosby television show. Gave new meaning to the epithet: "Thin White Duke".

DORA BRYAN: All I Want For Christmas is a Beatle (1963)
Early cash-in comedy record; might have worked if Dora had been 20 years younger.

THE DAMNED: There Ain't No Sanity Claus (1980)
Formerly respectable punk outfit way past their best; doesn't work as comedy or irony either.

CHRIS DE BURGH: A Spacemen Came Travelling (1975)
Gloriously overblown drivel; at least he didn't call it "Gentleman in Red".

QUEEN: Thank God It's Christmas (1984)
Freddie Mercury fights a losing battle with a Christmas pudding of a lyric and a soppy arangement by Roger Taylor and Brian May.

KENNY ROGERS: Christmas in America (1992)
He clearly believes the Americans invented Christmas; you can't trust people who eat their turkey in November. But he may have been right about who invented the whole shebang.

FRANK SIDEBOTTOM: Oh Blimey, it's Christmas (1985)
Oh blimey, it's crap.

BARBRA STREISAND: *Jingle Bells* **(1967)**
Laughable histrionic version of jolly carol; tries to recreate character of Fanny Bryce but only succeeds in emulating Peter Sellers's reading of *A Hard Day's Night*.

SCREAMING LORD SUTCH: Creepy Christmas Party (1980).
He did better at by-elections.

GEORG JENSEN

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CHRISTOPHER BARKER

Stephen Woodhams decorated Patricia Hodge's house for Christmas. She says: "The effect is stunning. It's like walking into Fairyland"

No shrinking violet

The actress Patricia Hodge goes to town with decorations for a family Christmas, says **Michael Cable**

my favourite shop

Christmas for the actress Patricia Hodge is a gloriously traditional family celebration. The festivities will get under way in earnest on Chistmas Eve, when nine members of the family sit down to dinner at her large double-fronted Victorian home in Barnes, south-west London. The festivities will continue until the day after *Boxing Day, her youngest son* Edward's sixth birthday.

"For someone like me who is deeply sentimental, Christmas is a very special time," she smiles. "It's a time to enjoy your home and bring all the family together. And this house really comes into its own at Christmas."

Helping to create an atmosphere that glows with warmth are the richly decorative trimmings supplied by floral and landscape designer *Stephen Woodhams. After* training with the Royal Horticultural Society at Wisley, Woodhams made his name at the 1994 Chelsea Flower Show. He won the Gold Medal for his "Mr Maidment's Garden" design which featured a derelict greenhouse. Having started his business from a garden shed in Chobham, Surrey, he went on to open the Notting Hill shop six years ago.

For his Christmas designs he has pioneered what Patricia Hodge calls the "hedgerow" look. "Many others have copied it," she says, "but he always seems to stay one jump ahead." Winter garlands of evergreens, flowers, miniature logs, fir cones and gilded walnuts and chestnuts are draped around mirrors and mantelpieces. Tablescapes are *created from scented pine*, lilies, bundles of cinnamon sticks and tangerines spiked with cloves. Tangled sprays of contorted willow are sprayed gold and hung with baubles, reflecting a soft golden light.

"It's a wonderfully irreverent combination of the natural and the cultivated and it works perfectly," says Miss Hodge. "Because he is basically a landscaper, he sees things in terms of bringing the outside indoors. The effect is a blend of *modern and traditional, and* that has always been my favourite design style."

Although Miss Hodge has long been an admirer of Woodhams, it wasn't until she moved into her present home that she brought him in to do her Christmas decorations.

"Our previous place was much smaller, and I realised that all my existing decorations would be hopelessly out of proportion," she recalls. "Even so, I would never have dared bring in arrangements on the scale that Stephen created. But the effect was stunning. When he had finished it was like walking into a fairyland."

The florist and landscape gardener Stephen Woodhams's shop in West London

Depending on how many rooms are involved, Mr Woodhams charges between £500 and £5,000 to design floral decorations for a private house. He keeps Lord Archer's riverside penthouse fragrant with blooms, and has created floral displays for the wed*dings of the footballer Paul* Gascoigne to the socialite heiress Cosima von Bülow.

His designs can be seen in the Ralph Lauren shops, Asprey, the Joseph chain, Daphne's restaurant and the private dining room at Michel Roux's Waterside Inn at Bray, Berkshire. He also creates the windowbox designs in Bond Street.

"He's very shy and self-effacing and lets his work speak for him," says Ms Hodge, making one of her regular visits to his shop. It is heavy with the scent of lilies and full of branches, twigs and grasses painted gold, silver and white. "I'd like to buy the entire shop," she sighs, picking out a galvanised-metal vase, a wicker basket and a wreath of pine and gold-painted willow.

She adds: "What constitutes a favourite shop for me is *somewhere that gives you an* adrenaline shot, a fix — the sort of place that makes you feel better as soon as you walk in. This shop does that. You are lit up. I feel the same about Ralph Lauren, Designers Guild and Penhaligon's."

Woodhams certainly helps to put her in a festive mood. As a girl growing up in the Lincolnshire hotel that her parents ran, she missed out on the family Christmas she always yearned for.

"My parents would be rushed off their feet trying to organise lunch for 300 guests, so my sister and I didn't see much of them in between opening our stockings at 5.30am and sitting down to lunch in the hotel dining room at 5pm," says the 51-year-old actress who stars in a forthcoming film, *Jilting Joe*, with James Purefoy and *The Full Monty* star Tom Wilkinson.

This year's get-together will change all that. As well as her *husband (the musician Peter* Owen), her mother, now 77, and her sister's family, the dinner will include her two children, who were born when she had almost given up hope. She was 42 when she had Alexander and 45 when Edward was born.

"Part of the pleasure of having children is that you can relive your childhood through them — especially at Christmas," she says. "And they are as impressed as any of us by the decorations. They think Stephen Woodhams is a magician."

● *Woodhams, 60 Ledbury Road, W11 (0171-243 3141). Mon-Fri 8.30am-6pm, Sat 9am-5pm.*

BARGAINS

BY DEFINITION designer labels don't come cheap. Unless, that is, you pay a visit to Bicester Village in Oxfordshire. More than 50 brand-*name shops jostle for attention in a faux* New England clapboard development, selling end of lines and the previous season's stock in a sort of permanent sale.

A knock-out, knocked-down outfit

I took £100 there in an attempt to shoe-horn my three children into a more stylish look. For Barnaby, 5, I bought a cobalt Ralph Lauren long-sleeve polo shirt for £19 (£42 normally) and khaki shorts for £17 *(reduced from £35). In the Clarks* factory shop down the road, we found a pair of docksiders for £15. For Ellie, 8, we headed for Jigsaw, where I picked up a dark blue cable-knit jumper (£12.95) and a pair of light blue pumps for £5.

The best find, though, was the bargain basket in Paul Smith, where everything was a tenner. Out came a pair of raw silk slacks for *Ellie, and red trousers decorated* with bicycles for Hugo, which went perfectly with a white Benetton T-shirt for £4.

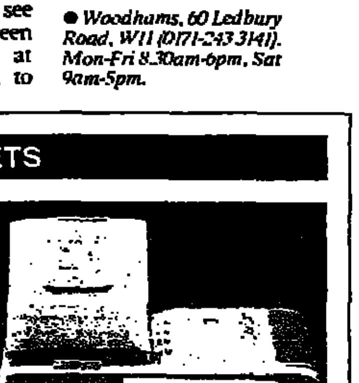
And I still have enough cash to treat myself to a white linen dress in Whistles for £5, reduced, astonishingly, from £85. I reckoned I had saved over £250. Bargain or what?

ARABELLA WARNER

● *Value Retail Bicester Village, 50 Pingle Drive, Bicester, Oxon OX6 7WD (01869 323 200). Open daily 10am-6pm.*

GADGETS

HONEY, *I've shrunk the vids! The* Gadget of 1997 has to be the JVC GR-DVX2 camcorder, the size of a small box of chocolates with the *weight and worth of a bar of real* gold.



The chocolate-box camera

The camera includes a backlit colour monitor which folds out to make easy work of taking or reviewing footage. It even takes still digital pictures, and everything captured can later be loaded on to the PC for editing and manipulating, or copied to a standard VHS recorder.

The miniaturisation miracle takes slender, 3in-wide plastic video-tape cartridges, which no James Bond would be seen dead carrying. He would probably carry something like a slot-in memory card to record pictures.

The memory card is used to mesmerising effect, however, with the D1000 digital voice recorder from Olympus.

It discreetly slips into the palm, delivers brilliantly clean sound and, since there is no moving tape, you can flip your way instantly around your dictations and recordings.

The mint-on-the-pillowcase-size cards hold up to 32 minutes of speech.

TIM WAPSHOTT

● *GR-DVX2 camcorder, £1,799, from JVC (0181-450 3282). D1000 digital voice recorder, £249.99, from Olympus (0800 072 0070).*

Hardy annuals

PERSONAL ORGANISERS

IT WAS after a couple of horrifying hours spent watching *Henry, Portrait of a Serial Killer* that I learned the importance of keeping a diary. So shaken *was I by this cinematic* monstrosity that I walked out leaving my diary under my seat, *writes* Times *diarist Jasper Gerrard.*

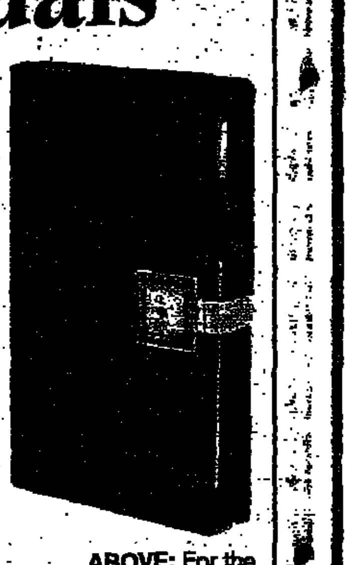
This sent my life into a spin. One evening I was *happily* reading at home only to receive a call from a grumpy Labour MP who I had stood up in a bar. Worse followed.

Perched at my desk one lunchtime, I contemplated a drink with an old university friend. Then the phone rang. "Conservative Central Office here, you are meant to be addressing our women's meeting. Where are you?"

Along with a glass of champagne, a packet of Nurofen and a thick skin, the most crucial accoutrement of the diarist is, well, a diary. Yet I hate my diary more than anything in the world.

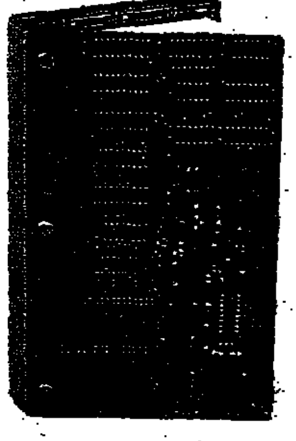
Clinical depression sets in when my diary contains a line of duty lunches stretching into the millennium, with the editor of *Christmas Tree Monthly* and other exciting *shakers* who nabbed you in a weak moment.

Last week I did what I thought I would never do again: I lost my diary. And I have rarely been happier.



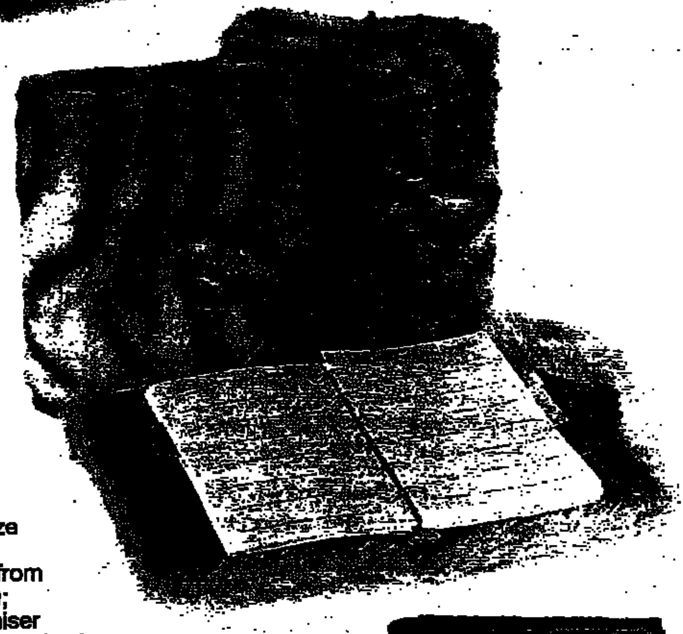
ABOVE: For the glamorous party-planner: black leather pocket-organiser with diamanté buckle, £85, from Paul Smith (0171-379 7133)

ABOVE: *Mulberry's* pocket Congo organiser, £120, to keep your social life up to date and the Congo Planner, £245, to hold yearly planners, calculator and credit cards (0171-491 3900)



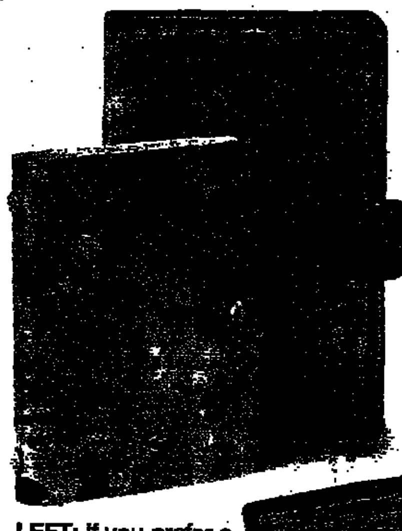
ABOVE: Scientists and electricians should plug in to the circuit-board organiser, £15.25, from Bureau (as before)

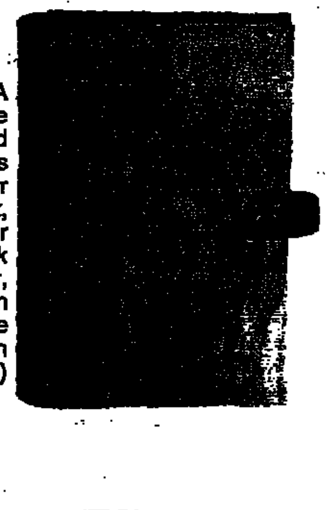
LEFT: Clear solutions are the blue glitter-gel organiser, £9.95, from Bureau (0171-836 3502) and the pink plastic organiser, £19.95, from Farrago (0181-788 0162)



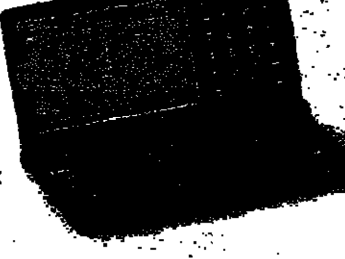
RIGHT: For the wild at heart: fake tiger organiser and fake leopard organiser, *both £6.95* from Bureau (as before); green fake-fur organiser, £7.95, from Farrago (as before)

BELOW: Pocket-size butterfly hologram organiser, £11.95, from *Farrago (as before)*; flower-power organiser from Paul Smith (as before)



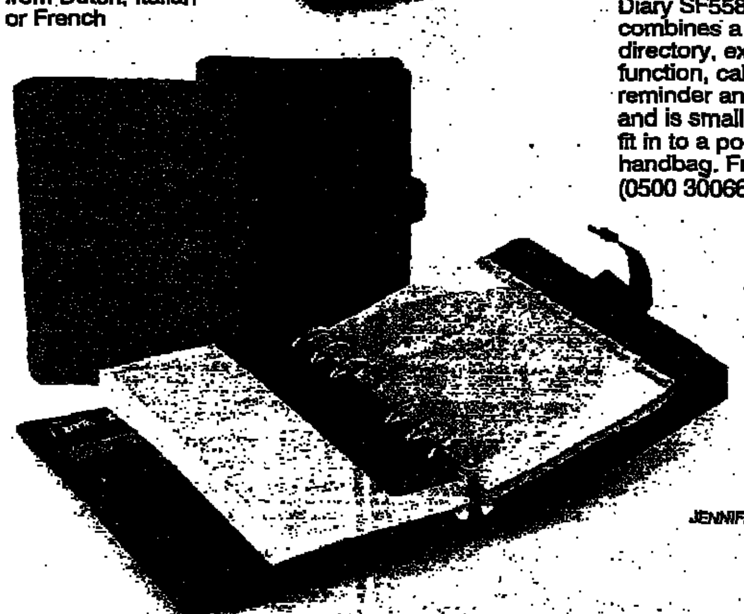


RIGHT: A handmade aid for wood lovers is the burr brown-oak, £43, or *English oak* organiser, £60, from George Pedersen (0171-359 5655)



LEFT: If you prefer a screen, the Digital Databank, £29.95, from Initial Ideas (01548 831070) has a calendar, diary reminder, alarm clock and built-in translator *from Dutch, Italian* or French

ABOVE: Casio's Digital Diary SF5580, £79.99, combines a telephone directory, expense function, calendar, reminder and calculator, and is small enough to fit in to a pocket or handbag. From Tandy (0500 300666)



PHOTOGRAPHS: DES JENSON
STYLING: JENNIFER RÜGGEBERG

ABOVE: Calf-skin pocket organiser, £69.95, from Filofax (01444 238100 for stockists). Available in a variety of colours. Alligator-print organiser, in brown, black, red and blue; pocket-size £71.90, larger version, £110.90. From Filofax (as before)

هكذا من الأصل

The Boxing Day test

Autumn colour and good outlines are vital for the garden to look good in December, says Nigel Colborn

The foliage of the long-lasting hellebore *argutifolius*

Camellia x *Williamsii* has glossy foliage in winter

The beautiful hellebore *argutifolius* in flower

GARDEN PICTURE LIBRARY

The vivid foliage and shapely outline of the Japanese maple will give winter colour to any garden

Ensuring year-round interest, the garden gurus tell us, is the essence of good planting. Easy to say, of course, but how do you achieve that? Could you, for instance, go into your garden at this moment and return with a bunch of flowers? Or failing blooms — it is December, after all — could you come up with some handsome twigs or bright evergreens?

If your answer is yes, then give yourself a gold star, but if not, perhaps you should consider subjecting your plants to what I call the Boxing Day test. Ask yourself how each of the plants in your garden — be they shrubs, herbaceous, trees or whatever — will look on Boxing Day.

Such shrub roses as 'Fritz Nobis' or 'Charles de Mills' are glorious in June, but dreary in winter. They fail the test. The rose 'Arthur Hillier' on the other hand, has pretty pink summer blooms followed by large, shapely hips which look especially beautiful when coated in hoar frost.

Add to that autumn leaf colour and a good winter outline, and it is easy to see why it passes the test. These are extreme cases but lots of plants redeem themselves by providing secondary displays, or by extended flowering periods, even though they lack December charm.

Plants with good secondary displays will always score well. The mountain ash, for instance, are mainly grown for their colourful fruits, but are also lovely in blossom. Some, such as *Sorbus sargentiana*, have further charms: vivid red autumn foliage, and big sticky buds for a dramatic outline.

Camellias, too, are variable in their generosity. Some bloom through winter; others restrict their flowering time to spring, but they all have beautiful glossy foliage, and therefore all pass the Boxing Day Test. Indeed, any evergreen is likely to have a strong advantage for winter selection — but then you have to reverse the procedure and ask yourself how it will be in summer. Wonderful though they are when blooming, for example, rhododendrons can be utterly depressing when they drip in an August drizzle, whereas some of the hollies and most of the conifers look fine in rain.

Among more lowly plants, evergreen perennials will always be preferable to those that disappear. The current obsession with hostas is puzzling, when you realise that their foliage is beautiful for less than half a year — if the slugs leave them alone.

Perennials with a long run of flower, even though they may not bloom on Boxing Day, will still score well enough to be welcome. Penstemons, for example, are seldom out of flower, during the growing season. Juxtapose them with such winter bloomers as *Euphorbia characias* or some of the better hellebores, and your display will run non-stop. All hellebores pass the Boxing Day Test, but those with beautiful and long lasting foliage — such as the Corsican *H. argutifolius* or the stinking hellebore *foetidas* — make better year-round plants. For creeping ground over, even in dense shade, *Euphorbia amygdaloides* var *robbiae* passes with flying colours.

Berries and rosehips look lovely covered in frost

being in full leaf with buds every Boxing Day.

Even within a restricted plant group, it often pays to select varieties which prolong the season. Take snowdrops: the common species *Galanthus nivalis* won't open for a week or two yet, but if you were to collect half a dozen special varieties, you could have snowdrops in bloom for six months. In my garden, the first appear in late September — autumn-flowering subspecies of the common snowdrop — and make terrific conversation-pieces when used as dinner table arrangements.

By the time they have faded, in late December, the first blooms of the big Turkish *G. elwesii* begin to open, heralding an exciting procession of snowdroppery, which concludes with a Caucasian species in early March.

In spite of the usefulness of the Boxing Day test, it would be pointless to insist that everything in the garden must pass it. Those two rose varieties I wrote off at the beginning of this piece are cherished: weekend wonders they may be, but our garden is all the richer for them.

However, the rule is to demand from each plant maximum interest for the maximum period. Ask not what you should do for your plants, but what they will do for you, not just in June, when it's plain sailing, but on Boxing Day, when the chips are down.

FACT FILE

Trees

Prunus sargentii: excellent: rounded outline; vivid pink spring blossom, amid reddish tinged foliage. Superb autumn colour.

Ilex aquifolium 'Madame Briot': a holly with golden leaf margins, often burnished with bronzy tints in hard weather. Red berries and good holly leaves.

Sorbus cashmiriana: a modestly sized mountain ash with pink spring blossoms, handsome foliage and large white berries which persist into winter.

Shrubs

Camellia x williamsii 'Donation': large, double pink flowers produced sporadically through winter, then with a final rush in spring. Lustrous foliage.

Mahonia x *wagneri* 'Undulata': one of the finest of the 'Oregan Grapes'. Shiny, evergreen foliage, vivid yellow blooms in spring followed by blue-black summer berries.

Acer japonicum 'Vitifolium': vine-leaved Japanese Maple — but any Japanese maples would do. Shapely in winter and beautiful in autumn.

Climbers

Rosa 'Scarlet Fire': a climbing rose with handsome purplish stems, scarlet blooms, spectacular orange hips. Georgeous associated with:

Vitis vinifera 'Purpurea': a purple-leaved grape vine whose foliage runs through a constant series of subtle colour changes from May to November. The small glossy black fruits taste so disgusting that even birds shun them.

Lonicera japonica 'Halliana': Japanese honeysuckle. Not the most spectacular but easily the most sweetly scented. Parchment yellow flowers produced from June to December. The black berries are hardly conspicuous in January, but they do feed the birds.

Perennials

Pulmonaria 'Lewis Palmer': an evergreen perennial with broad basal leaves stippled with white splashes. In spring and summer, the flowers open with a touch of pink but turn vivid blue.

Cyclamen hederifolium: small, compact but never humble. The pink or white flowers are a joy from August to November. Richly marbled foliage, in an almost infinite variety of shapes and patterns, emerges in October and persists until high summer.

New technology in the back garden is producing better results and profits

Going organic pays off

The harvest of better composting

The Centre for Alternative Technology is conducting an experiment for gardeners with a sense of failure where compost is concerned. "Often, compost doesn't work properly," says Peter Harper, of the biology department.

The centre's bins have been put on a high-fibre diet, which creates extra carbon and an open texture without as much heat as the traditional heap, so losing less nitrogen, say reseachers. It doesn't need turning either.

The fibre comes from waste paper — used tissues and crumpled cereal boxes rather than newspapers — tossed in with vegetable waste produced in the same time so that layering is automatic.

Mr Harper admits that there are two disadvantages: problems with plasticised paper, leaving undigested morsels to be sieved out, and decomposition is slower than in a perfect orthodox heap. But, given that most people fall short of perfection, the method is faster than unturned conventional compost, he says.

Scientists at the centre, based in Powys, are also investigating the use of rock dust to stimulate microbe activity in soil. It's potential was first spotted in an Austrian quarry, where vegetation flourished around the dusty entrance. Although formal tests are incomplete, Mr Harper was impressed by last season's results in his garden.

Other trials at the centre focused on the black plastic sheets used to dry and warm the soil in spring. Researchers found that clear plastic, used before and after sowing, leads to earlier emergence, heating the ground by four to five degrees, rather than the one to two achieved with black plastic. Gardeners are advised to remove the plastic once seeds have germinated and warmer weather arrives.

After using these innovations, you may have a glut of organic produce looking for a good home. The Farmers Market movement, which originated in America, encourages growers to take produce to a regular market with a social and educational, as well as a commercial, purpose. Tony Ambrose, of the Bath Organic Group, helped to set up the first British market in September. He says it is an excellent way for gardeners to pass on surpluses and earn money for seeds or allotment rent.

Demand is plentiful for items such as Jerusalem artichokes, Mr Ambrose says, and the group's gardeners retain 70 per cent of proceeds from their produce, the rest going towards stall expenses. Customers take organic credentials on trust, because there is no accreditation involved, but they have the advantage of being able to question growers directly.

Next spring, the Soil Association will co-ordinate a conference for organisations hoping to set up markts elsewhere.

Britain's best-known organic gardeners, the Henry Doubleday Research Association (HDRA) at Ryton, Coventry, developed several projects this year, some in connection with Local Agenda 21, which encourages organic practice in school grounds and public areas.

The association has also set up a new organic design service. Based on a national network of HDRA members who are qualified garden designers, it will help with anything from a windowbox to a park. The cost depends on complexity, but a design for a garden 60ft by 200ft might be £250-£450.

The HDRA is also hosting potato festival at Ryton Gardens in February, featuring more than 100 of the more disease-resistant varieties. It will be open to members only on Saturday, February 7 (entry free) and to the public on Sunday, February 8 (combined festival/gardens ticket £2.50).

JULIE WEBB

- *Centre for Alternative Technology, Machynlleth, Powys SY20 9AZ (01654 702400).*
- *Soil Association (Alan Chubb, Farmers Market Co-ordinator), 86 Colston Street, Bristol BS1 5BB (0117 9290661).*
- *Henry Doubleday Research Association (Bob Sherman, HDRA Consultants) Ryton Organic Gardens, Coventry CV8 3LG (01203 308210).*

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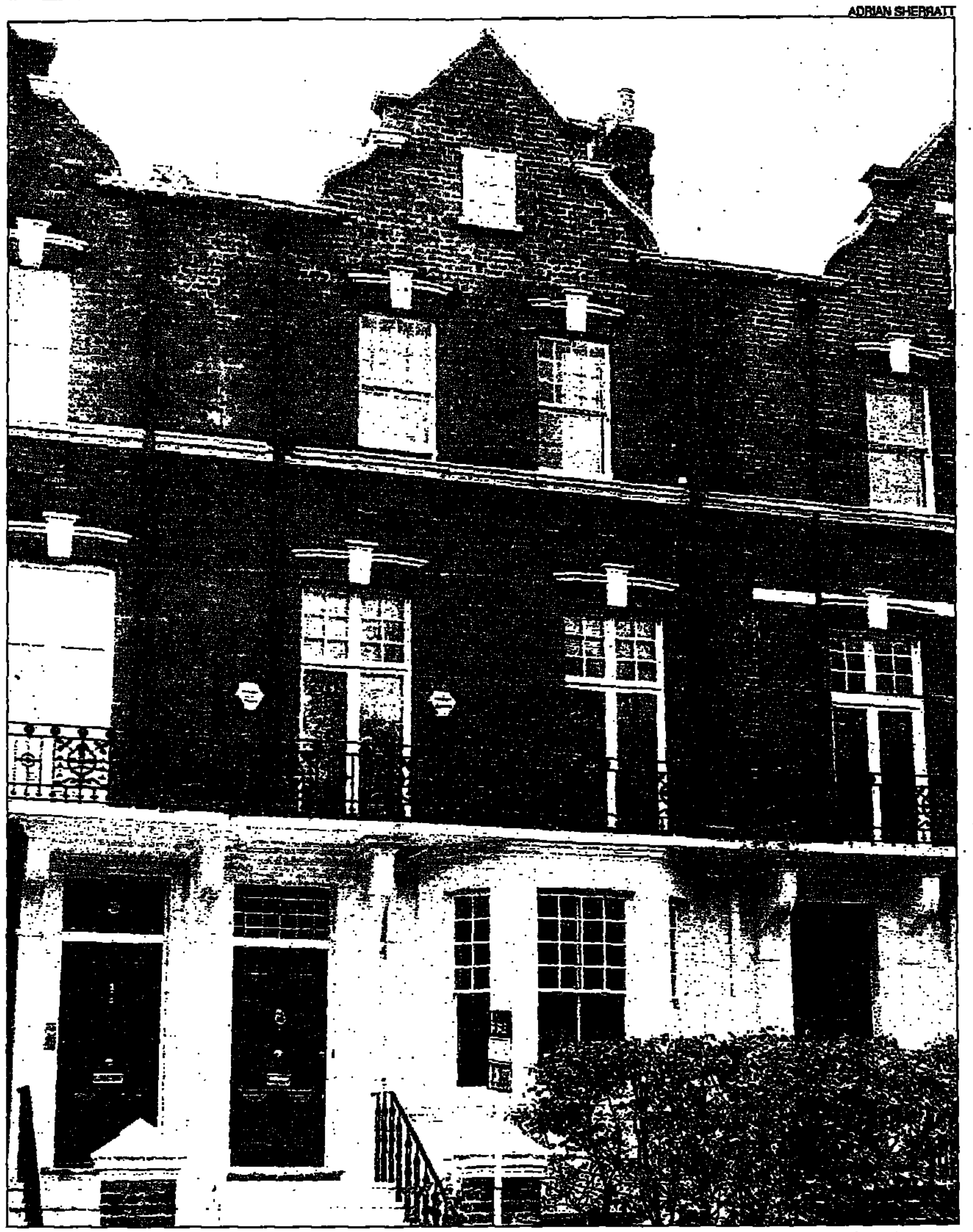
Angharad Rees loves her home but wants something smaller

ADRIAN SHERRATT



The house on Albert Bridge Road has six bedrooms over four floors, plus a one-bedroom flat in the basement

BBC

Angharad Rees with her *Poldark* co-star Robin Ellis

HOUSE OF THE WEEK

Fancy a change of scenery?

Erica Wagner steps into the welcoming home of Angharad Rees, for sale at £1.3m

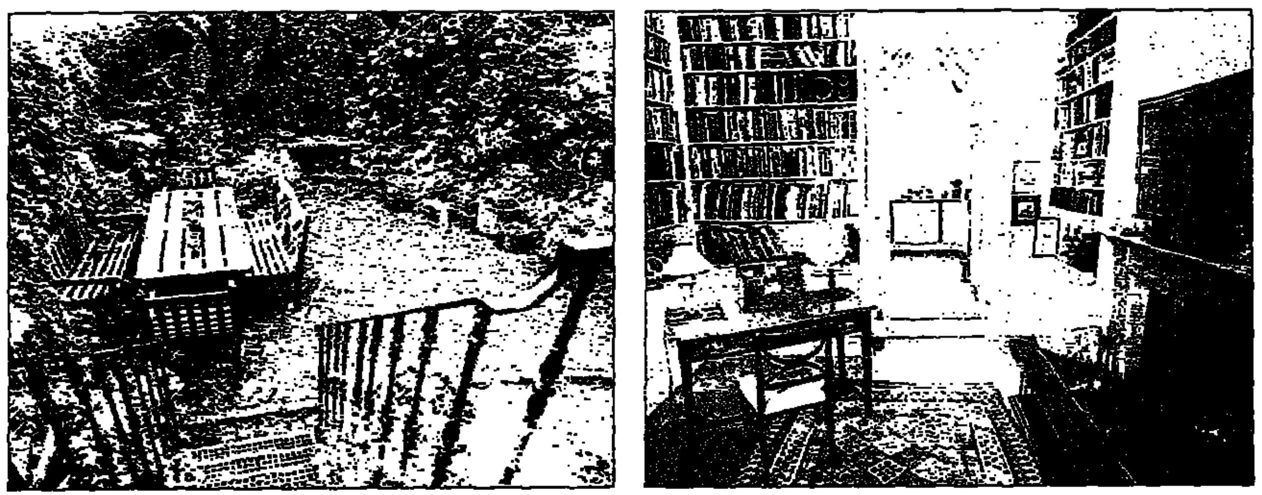
The elegant woman who stands in her conservatory kitchen, making me a pot of coffee on a cold December day, seems a far cry from Demelza in *Poldark*, the character that shot her to fame — you remember, the girl who would "drop her knickers for a shilling".

But Angharad Rees still has a breathless, girlish charm, even when the part she is acting is that of an estate agent. For her tall, beautiful house in Battersea, South London, is for sale, and I have come to have a nose around.

She is setting up for a party when I arrive. Shooting for her latest film, *The Wolves of Cromer*, has just ended and cast and crew have been invited. Bottles of wine are chilling in the fridge alongside several enormous trays of ready-to-bake pasta.

The raised ground floor, with bow-window overlooking Battersea Park, seems the perfect space for a party. The walls are what I once heard called Naples yellow and their sunniness lifts the grey day ("It's a spiritual colour in Buddhism," Miss Rees says).

Pictures and bookshelves line the walls (in the hall there is a complete collection of Biggles books): the huge double room, divided by French doors, leads into the kitchen. It all feels very informal: the dining room, which leads out to a lovingly tended if wintry garden, is more formal, with a long table and pale-green walls.



The garden is ideal for eating al fresco in summer. The hall bookshelves hold a complete Biggles collection

She has two sons, Linford, 23, and Rhys, 20, from her marriage to *Dynasty* actor Christopher Cazenove (they are now divorced, but he passed his passion for Biggles, and his books, on to his sons). The boys are now at university in Edinburgh and Miss Rees has begun to rattle around in the place — there are six bedrooms over three floors, plus a separate, one-bedroom flat in the basement.

Despite her sons' flight north, evidence of their presence fills the house and is one of the things that gives the place its warm, comfortable atmosphere. Large London houses can be forbidding, but not this one: its walls are covered with clues to the actress's career (a fine 19th-century poster from the Theatre Royal, Haymarket, advertises Ellen Wareham in *Duenna* and Mr W. Farren in *The Clandestine Marriage*), school photographs and framed children's drawings.

The boys' rooms are at the top of the house and, with their posters for The Levellers and The Cure, are still very much "boys' rooms". There are books everywhere, records, ancient computers — and the walls need a lick of paint.

Miss Rees hurries me through — these rooms are nothing special, she says — but while they are not the most finished in the house, they are very welcoming. I sit down at the desk in the attic for a few moments to take some notes and think, "well, I could get used to this".

Downstairs is the master bedroom, with two windows and a balcony overlooking trees and river. The garden is of typical size for London.

Miss Rees has lived here for ten years: her attachment to the place is evident from the way she picks out the pear tree that stands just the other side of the park's fence.

"It blossoms on one day a year, it seems," she says. "And the boys and I always look out for it and then go and admire it together." When the leaves are gone, the view is different: you can see the boats passing on the Thames. But in summer, standing on the balcony gives quite a different feel: "You could imagine you were in Monte Carlo or some place exotic," she says. Off the bedroom is a luxurious bathroom with a deep and enticing spa bath.

Coffee in hand, we step downstairs for a look at the flat, which could easily be converted back to be a part of the house again, although it is quite cosy as it is, with decorated hardwood floors designed by Colleen Berry and an old-fashioned cast-iron stove. There is one bedroom with exposed brick walls, high windows overlooking the garden and fitted wardrobes.

If I were Miss Rees, I would be sorry to leave, but she has her eye on a little place in Chelsea which she hopes will prove more manageable. None of her friends wants her to go. Seeing the wine and food set out for her party in its easy and graceful surroundings, and imagining the festivities that have gone before, it is easy to sympathise with them.

● *Agent: John D. Wood, 0171-228 0174.*

HOME SWAP

HOUSE PRICES in Kennington, south of Westminster Bridge, within earshot of the Division Bell of the Houses of Parliament, went up 20 per cent in the first six months of this year, according to agents Winkworth. Georgian terraced houses, including those around Cleaver Square, fetch from £300,000 to £400,000 for three to four bedrooms. One and two-bedroom flats between £65,000 and £120,000 are being snapped up by MPs looking for a London pied-à-terre. On the other side of the Walworth Road, a three-bedroom Victorian terraced houses can be had from £130,000.

London buyers looking for second homes are the driving force on the north Norfolk coast, where prices gained up to 12 per cent this year, say Bidwells. Brick and flint cottages from Blakeney to Hunstanton, are sought-after and cost from £80,000 for three bedrooms. Period rectories with up to eight bedrooms and five acres of land fetch from £300,000.

South of Norwich, villages, such as Stoke Holy Cross and Saxlingham Nethergate are popular with Norwich commuters, with prices from £150,000 for a detached three-bedroom character cottage.

The prospect of a Scottish parliament is not deterring English buyers looking for family homes north of the border. They still account for 30 per cent of the market for Scottish country houses, according to Knight Frank. Country houses with up to eight bedrooms and 15 acres in Perthshire, costing around £500,000, are in demand, particularly those with shooting or fishing.

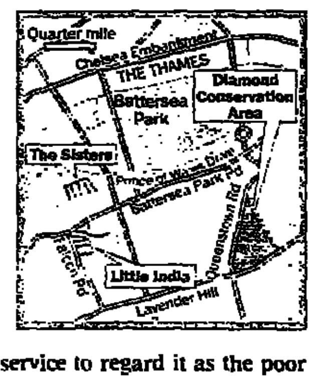
This three-bedroom Georgian terraced house with a rear patio garden in St Mary's Gardens, Kennington, south London, is for sale at £269,000 (Winkworth, 0171-587 0660).

For even less (£225,000), you can buy Beechwood House and Old School Cottage, a restored 16th-century four-bedroom village house with an adjoining two-bedroom cottage, in just under an acre of secluded gardens, at Great Hockham, near Thetford, Norfolk (Savills, 01603 612211).

In Scotland, a similar sum (£235,000) will buy Old Mill Farmhouse, an attractive five-bedroom, four-reception room house, overlooking the River Forth, at Craigforth, Stirling. It comes with an adjoining barn, a large garden and an orchard (Savills, 0131-226 6961).

CHERYL TAYLOR

MARKET COMMENT



THE THAMES is a powerful dividing line. To the north, in South Kensington, Chelsea and Fulham, prices rose as dramatically as anywhere in London in the first half of this year; to the south, Battersea has been the beneficiary of the overspill as would-be Kensingteenies and Fulhamites have been priced out of the market. Yet experts point out that it is doing Battersea a disservice to regard it as the poor man's South Ken, and an average price rise of around 30 per cent between May 1996 and May 1997 proves their point. Wandsworth has the river, an abundance of parks and commons, shops and restaurants. Admittedly, it has no Tube line, but trains from Clapham Junction take five minutes to Waterloo or Victoria, with the City 40 minutes' journey door-to-door. Frequent bus services take 25 minutes to the West End.

The lack of Tube connections has undoubtedly contributed to markedly lower prices. The agent John D. Wood, which is selling Angharad Rees's house, believes that the £1.3 million property could be compared with those in Glebe Place, Chelsea, where a similar house is for sale for £1.75 million.

HOWEVER, the broad architectural range is very different in Battersea. The area distinguishes itself in the yuppie market with a number of classy Victorian school conversions (including The Village, where Viscount Linley was an early purchaser). Buyers can expect to pay £600,000 or £700,000 for a three-bedroom flat, and even one-bedroom units cost £250,000-plus.

One recent resale fetched well over £1 million. New river-view blocks in north Battersea, such as Albert Bridge House or Norman Foster's building, Riverside One, command £500,000 to £2 million. The premium, as for Miss Rees's house, lies in the watery panorama and proximity to Chelsea.

Further down the market, and in contrast to South Kensington's grand, stucco-fronted properties, the bulk of Battersea's housing stock consists of three or four-bedroom bay-windowed Victorian houses. These are likely to be in areas such as Little India (off Battersea Park Road), the Diamond Conservation Area (off Queenstown Road) or the enclave of The Sisters, and cost between £250,000 and £400,000. The only option within Battersea is the enclave of properties around Prince of Wales Drive, from £600,000.

FAITH GLASGOW

DREAM HOMES OF THE ACTRESSES

PRUNELLA SCALES and TIMOTHY WEST, the actors, have a large detached, yellow stucco-fronted Victorian house on the edge of Wandsworth Common in Southwest London. They have lived in the four-storey house, which has a conservatory and garden at the back, for 28 years, but spend most of their weekends on board their 60ft narrowboat moored on the Kennet and Avon canal

LESLEY JOSEPH, the actress, lives in a five-bedroomed Victorian house overlooking Wandsworth Common in Southwest London, with her two children, Elizabeth and Andrew. The redbrick property, with large bay windows, was bought for £450,000 last year after Miss Joseph sold her house, less than a mile away in Clapham. Neighbouring houses are fetching up to £700,000.

NANCY LAM, the television presenter and owner of Enak Enak, a popular restaurant in Battersea in South London, lives with her husband, Ben, and their dogs, in a small Edwardian semi-detached, modernised house in nearby Tooting. The house, with a bay-windowed front room and a conservatory and roof terrace at the back, has a large sculptured pond that dominates the rear garden.

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CHANGING TIMES

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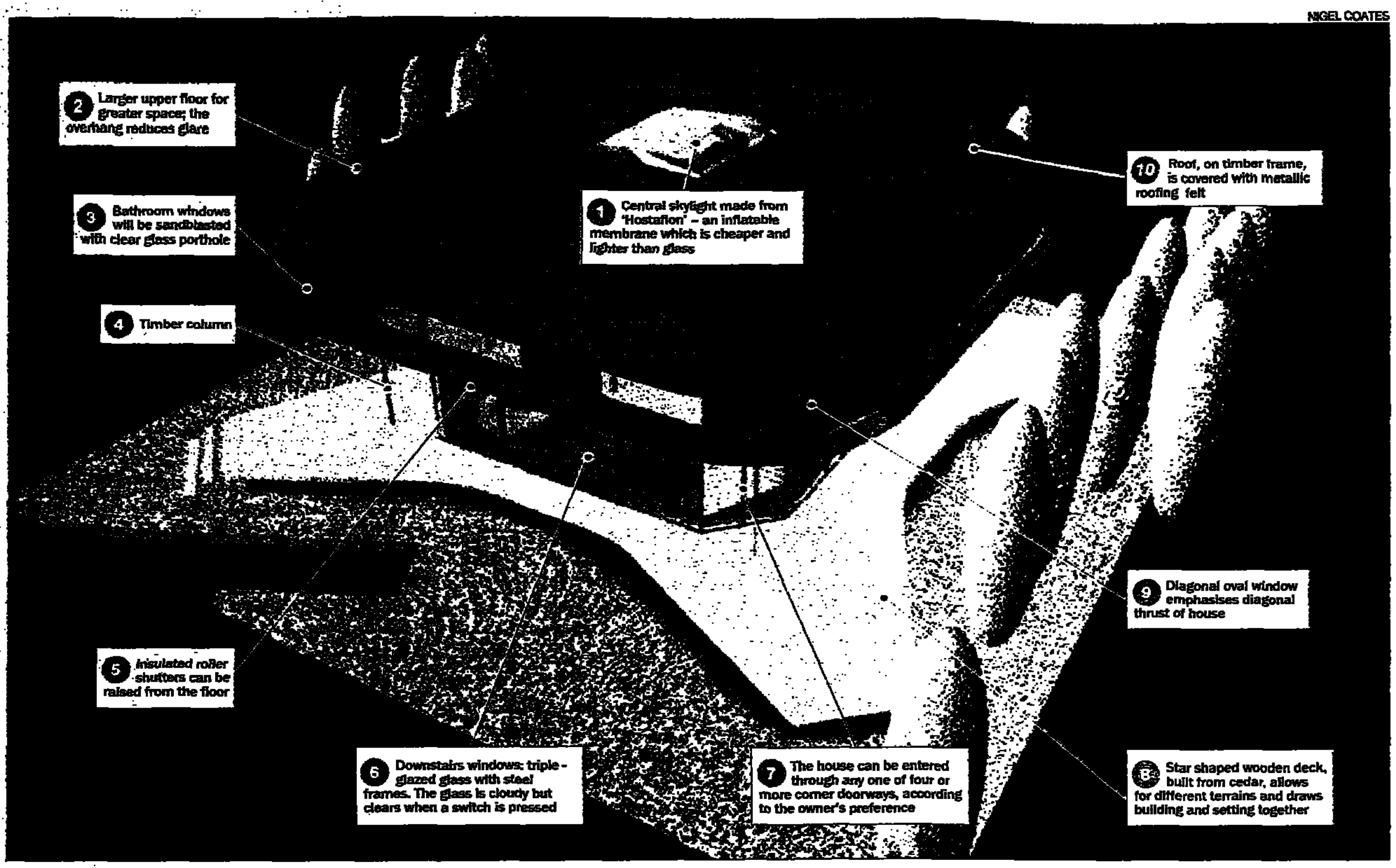
Pearl of a house with an oyster look

ARCAID

Piet Bloom's ultra-modern housing in central Rotterdam

NIGEL COATES


1 Central skylight made from 'Hostaflon' – an inflatable membrane which is cheaper and lighter than glass
2 Larger upper floor for greater space; the overhang reduces glare
3 Bathroom windows will be sandblasted with clear glass porthole
4 Timber column
5 Insulated roller shutters can be raised from the floor
6 Downstairs windows: triple-glazed glass with steel frames. The glass is cloudy but clears when a switch is pressed
7 The house can be entered through any one of four or more corner doorways, according to the owner's preference
8 Star shaped wooden deck, built from cedar, allows for different terrains and draws building and setting together
9 Diagonal oval window emphasises diagonal thrust of house
10 Roof, on timber frame, is covered with metallic roofing felt

Rachel Kelly previews the glass house set to be the 1998 Ideal Home star

What does the future hold for our new homes? Nigel Coates, an architect and professor at the Royal College of Art, may have the answer. His design for a two-storey glass and wood house shaped like an oyster shell has just won a new architectural prize in the "Concept House '98" competition. The house will be the highlight of next year's *Ideal Home* exhibition.

We all have a stake in what our new homes look like. The latest Government figures estimate that more than four million new homes need to be built in the next 20 years. Much of the debate has focused on the loss of our green fields. But just as important is that these new homes should include at least some of challenging design.

It was such a hope that led to the birth of the oyster house. In an effort to stimulate good modern architecture, the exhibition organisers invited architects to build a commercially viable £100,000 house which would show visitors "an exciting and dynamic idea of what the contemporary house can look like". The brief was that the house should be a showcase for new technology and show an awareness of "flexible living and working".

The house is designed to sit on a star-shaped deck, with partly enclosed bedroom spaces upstairs and an all-glass lower level, with folding windows opening up to the surrounding garden.

There are four doors at each corner, and insulated roller shutters rise from the floor at the flick of a switch. Another switch turns the triple-glazed windows opaque. Upstairs, the private quarters are lit by a central glazed skylight. The 1,500sq ft of space can be divided, with two bedrooms and bathrooms. Each half has its own staircase.

The total cost of the house, including the cost of the land, would be about £300,000.

Professor Coates, who has designed furniture, bars in Tokyo, the Jigsaw shops and, more recently, the National Centre for Popular Music in Sheffield, says: "The oyster house has a blobby spaceship feel. Although it fits into the landscape, it also appears that it has just arrived. It is about freedom of spirit: a house that doesn't prescribe how you should live in it."

His house develops the ideas of loft-living which have been so successful in the urban flats market. Professor Coates says. "Just as lofts offer a 'space' for you to use in your own way, this house reflects the changes in how people live together and the real life extensions of the 'family' group to incorporate work, friends and relations."

Tim Pyne, an architect and director of Work, the company which is to build the house for the exhibition, was one of nine judges. "The house gives people the chance to see open-plan living," he says. "People are tending towards flexibility, yet rigid designs, with small, boxy rooms, still dominate."

While British design has advanced in other areas, much of our new housing is marked by stifling uniformity. In a 1994 Gallup poll for the Royal Institution of British Architects, 60 per cent of those polled dismissed new house design as "nothing special", "mediocre" or "appalling".

Significantly, at November's promotion for British design, hosted by Tony Blair and Sir Terence Conran, housing was notable by its absence. Sir Terence has, in the past, lambasted the "terrible, tacky boxes" that pass for modern architecture. Others, such as the Council for the Protection of Rural England, have said that much modern housing jars with existing local architecture. Different architectural dialects are flattened by large-scale developments.

But would anyone want to live in an oyster house? The open-plan home would not be to everyone's taste.

Builders are sceptical. Research by the House Builders' Federation suggests that most buyers want traditional designs. Moreover, few planning authorities are likely to sanction oyster houses.

Earlier this month, Haringey council in London refused permission to build a futuristic modern house by the architect Ron Arad in Hampstead, despite Sir Jocelyn Stevens, the head of English Heritage, championing the scheme as an example of brave, modern architecture. Granting permission would have meant pulling down an existing house on the site — a problem which dogs many such cases and helps explain the lack of good modern houses.

One scheme that has won plaudits is Piet Bloom's modern housing in Rotterdam (top left). But how can builders know what the public wants if they do not offer much choice? There are signs that consumers do wish for more innovative design. The number of people wanting to build their own homes is growing — witness the success of magazines such as *Individual Homes*. About 25,000 such homes are built each year.

Julian Owen, of the Association of Self-Building Architects, says that one in ten buyers struggles to find the house he or she wants.

In the RIBA survey mentioned above, 3 per cent of house-buyers indicated a preference for modern houses. That could mean about 45,000 new modern houses every year — perhaps a few oyster houses among them.

- *The Oyster House will shown be at the 1998 Ideal Home Exhibition, Earls Court, west London, March 19-April 13.*
- *Branson Coates Architecture. 0171-490 0343.*
- *Additional research by Mark Cropper.*

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'I know Alexander can keep a sulk like this going for days. Perhaps I should send a note'

Merry Christmas Mister Stroppy

So far, in our house, we have not put up any decorations. As children, my sister and I were not allowed by our parents to deck the hall with so much as a shred of tinsel before Christmas Eve, a tradition which, for no particular reason, I seem to be perpetuating. But still, the place has acquired a faintly festive look from the snowstorm of little bits of paper that cover every surface.

Most of these belong to me, and are lists. Under normal circumstances we dance to the music of a couple of lists: Shopping, which has groceries on it, and Other, a great rolling list of everything else. At times of acute stress (holidays, Christmas, whenever we are supposed to be having a jolly time), this great Überlist spawns thousands of panicky baby lists, as I scribble down every random thought that floats into my head. "Xander clothes for school play" says one bit of paper. "String? Sealing wax? NB buy presents . . ."

Meanwhile, Alexander has also caught the habit of committing every passing thought to paper, and I keep turning up memos penned by him. Some are of a practical nature: "Sleigh landing pad" reads one, carefully positioned in his bedroom fireplace. Another announces: "I shall not be at Greenwich at Christmas." "Dash it!" I imagine Father Christmas remarking to his reindeer. "OK, lads, as you were. Turn left and carry on for 50 miles."

LIFE AND SOUL

JANE SHILLING

Other notes in Alexander's hand, however, are gnomic in the extreme. "Save up as much as you can," instructs one propped on the piano. "Gone to sea in my boat. Back by morning," announces another, while a third, stuck on my bedroom door, reads — rather insultingly, I cannot help feeling — "the Spanish wreck". What can they all mean?

I would ask, if only I dared. But I am in disgrace at the moment. It happened that last week I had the chance to go away for a couple of days. So I did, leaving him in the care of Grandma, an arrangement which I thought would bring me nothing but Brownie points, since she is calmer than me, and less given to savage punishments involving loss of Star Wars toys. What with all of this, I felt certain of a warm welcome on my return. So when I heard him stir at dawn, I bounced into his room, saying: "Darling, darling, I'm back! Did you miss me?" "No," said Darling, shortly, fixing me with a chilly stare.

Ooh *er*, missus. Alexander's precocious mastery of a manner that would be alarming in a person ten times his age has been noted before now. A friend, the father of sons and a whiz at child-management, once decided that he would get Alexander to eat up all his tea. "Let's see who can finish their boiled egg first," cried Andrew jovially. "No thank you," said Alexander coldly. "I don't want a race."

I don't know where he gets it from, I am sure. I am still pondering the enigma (and we are still on non-speaks) when there flops through the letterbox a copy of my old college magazine, a monochrome publication whose function it is to record the career, marital and academic successes of college members past and present — and also their passing. This it does in a fashion clear-sighted (not to say disobliging) enough to bring tears to the eyes — affection cannot stand in the way of truth when an old St Cake's girl picks up her pen. (Perhaps, it occurs to me, *this* is where Alexander gets it from, by some process of morphic resonance.)

Anyway, I pick up the phone to his godmother, Jessica, who was educated at an even harder nick than St Cake's. "What about this?" I say: "'As a tutorial partner, she was both stimulating and somewhat daunting.'" "Mmm," says Jess. "Anything else?"

"Several 'did not suffer fools gladly'," I say. "One 'She was a very sensible person,' and a 'became quite an authority on butterflies'." Not a bad bunch, though nothing to match my all-time favourite: "Though never a pretty girl, Betty was not without admirers . . ."

Having once fallen into this cast of mind, however, it is terribly hard to shake off. "Though never a competent hostess," I find myself murmuring as I shove a trolley-load of cheap claret around Sainsbury's, "she kept a copious cellar, of modest quality." "Her excursions into maternity," I intone, as I draw up outside the house with a clank, "were vigorous, but largely ineffectual."

But really, it is not very funny. From past experience I know that Alexander can keep a sulk like this going for days. Still, when I get in, there is a further note stuck to my door, illustrated with a drawing of a person in what seems to be a red velvet catsuit. *Very* Miss Selfridge. "Elf in charge," it says. "Merry Christmas, Mummy." Which I take to be, for the time being anyway, a declaration of Christmas truce.

MARTIN BEDNALL

Female sales assistants with sexy mouths, exits that are hard to find and an absence of clocks are the stores' methods of making you buy, buy, buy

It's in the bag for whom?

Shoppers may think they have a choice, but, says **David Bodanis**, they are being subtly manipulated

It is the Saturday before Christmas, and you decide to take your family to buy those last few gifts. You think you know roughly what you need, and how much you have to spend — but as you step into the shopping centre, there are invisible forces at work.

We may think we are free spirits who make our own choices but in fact enormous amounts of research and money have gone into manipulating the shopper for the benefit of the shop manager, cajoling us into spending more than we ever intended.

Inside, the seemingly innocuous Muzak is skilfully varied. It speeds up around 11am and again near 4pm, the times when our biorhythms would otherwise slow us to a natural low. Hard-bitten store managers did not always believe that this would work, until they were shown videos of tired shoppers perking up and scanning the store more actively. Indeed, researchers have shown that cows produce more milk within earshot of a quickening pace.

The family is lured deeper into the store. They quickly lose sense of time, for clocks are banned. It's also going to be hard to get out, for exits are far away and difficult to find. Faint clouds of ionone molecules — the active chemical in the odour of fresh hay — are likely to be emanating from ventilation ducts, making them feel strangely at ease.

There is a delay at the lifts, and the store has to prevent shoppers from getting restless. The simplest solution is to put mirrors on the walls between the elevators, for it is almost compulsive at least to glance at your reflection. (According to one poll, men claimed never to look at themselves in shop windows, but video evidence showed them twice as likely to do so than women.)

The next best thing to keep shoppers happy while they wait is to install an information display near the lift: as many as one in three people are curious, or nervous, enough to stop and check location details.

Some stores even keep one lift with its doors permanently open. People march in, and although they end up waiting as long as they would have outside, they invariably feel better huddling inside than out.

Indeed, at one airport it took two minutes to walk to the carousel where the luggage arrived, and eight minutes for the luggage to appear. Customers were unhappy, so managers redesigned the path so that it took eight minutes to walk to the carousel. Luggage "magically" arrived a bare two minutes later, and complaints dropped.

At the clothes shop, women happily plunge in while dad is more likely to be spotted on video cameras waiting fearfully inside the entrance. Stores try hard to help men. In expensive boutiques, female sales personnel are often trained to greet buyers with their mouths slightly open — a sexy trick copied from air-hostess manuals.

In medium-price stores, the most over-priced jeans or shirts are often put on large tables near the entry. This wastes valuable space, but only when the psychologically crucial "petting" of the fabrics has taken place is there much chance of a sale.

At all stores, wall displays are designed to appeal in different ways to men and women. Men find it almost impossible to resist a sexy photo or drawing — the pupils of their eyes are liable to expand by 2 per cent simply by seeing the word "nude". Women, however, turn to displays that show success in group activities, such as a bunch of chatty friends being attracted by a new aerobics outfit.

Men are uncomfortable with that, and several Armani outlets have gone so far as to have only single samples of suits on display, rather than entire racks, to emphasise individuality.

There is nothing in the clothing store, so the family tries another department, then another. They think they are the ones deciding what they choose, but that is unlikely if you are in a hurry. Items with a low mark-up tend to be stored in narrow aisles, which shoppers rush through. It is in the slower, wide aisles, where the family is likely to meander, that items with the highest profit margins go.

Since we also tend to look straight ahead, shelves at eye-level usually have the worst bargains of all. In the business these are called "hotspots", a place where you are twice as likely to buy than anywhere else.

When tired, a family will make selections following rules of thumb — almost all of which are wrong. Items that are widely advertised are often felt to be the best, but branded goods often cost 50 per cent more than the same item in a less celebrated container.

The wife reaches for kitchen paper towels — there will be a lot of cooking over Christmas — and instinctively selects the mega-pack roll, assuming it will be the cheapest. But manufacturers know that consumers reason this way, and regularly take advantage of it. One company made sure that there were fewer pieces of paper on each roll in its biggest packs, so that the average price per sheet of kitchen towel was actually higher.

Finally, when all the goods are gathered, dad reaches for his store credit card. Stores only receive a profit from those shoppers who accumulate interest charges: big stores often hunt through data banks to find people reputedly slow at paying back debts. As you trot, hands full, back to your car, you chuckle quietly to yourself: that seems to have gone as planned.

Which is exactly what the storekeeper thinks.

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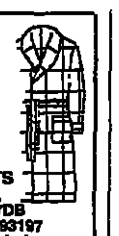

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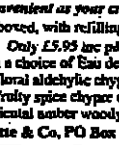

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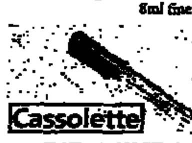

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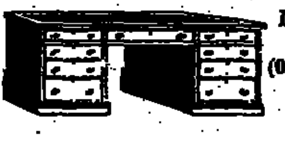

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هكذا من الأصل

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Satisfying the pining for a real Christmas tree, while whistling *The Holly and the Ivy*, leaves the family cold and silently glum

Last chop for the jolly axeman

DOWN TO EARTH

PAUL HEINEY

Less than a week to go to Christmas, and I am about to give my annual romantic yuletide performance. For this I gather my family around me, wrap them warmly in heavy coats and tell them to be brave as we trudge out to chop down the Christmas tree. No matter how mild it might be, and despite the fact that we are going less than 400 yards, I feel obliged to dress as for the Arctic Circle and urge them to do the same; rabbit-fur cap with ear flaps is the preferred headgear. The nearer I can get to the *Doctor Zhivago* look, the happier I am.

To be truthful, there is another scene which precedes this little melodrama. This is where I hunt for the axe and, file in hand, place the hickory shaft between my knees and attempt to sharpen the hard, steel axe-head. I do this with the concentration of a lumberjack bound for a forest, but the results invariably make a butter knife look lethal by comparison.

The rain forests of the world have nothing to fear from my axe. This is because I attempt the sharpening trick only once a year, and the sure way to learn to sharpen an axe is by doing it every day for a year until you understand that wood yields only to an axe honed to a suitable shape: too sharp and it sticks, too rounded and it bounces off.

The panicky days before Christmas are not the best time to grasp this subtlety. However, I give the axe a few half-hearted but well intentioned scrapes with the file and then, as custom requires, I swing it over my shoulder and up the hill we march. I am usually whistling *The Holly and Ivy*. The family are silently glum.

It was with great forethought that our predecessor here filled a corner of a field by planting young Christmas trees. There were only about 20 of them, so they were neither a commercial enterprise requiring management, nor sufficiently valuable to need guarding from thieves. We simply enjoy harvesting one each year, bringing it home and thanking it for the pleasure it has given us before throwing it on the bonfire, usually around Easter.

It is part of the ritual that I "chop" it down, and here lies the problem: Does anyone know how to chop down a tree? Is there anyone left with the axe-wielding skills to take chip after chip from the trunk of tree till it falls, safely, in the right place? I don't mean a spindly, juvenile fir, but a proper, fully grown tree. I think of this every year at this time as I attack the poor little Christmas tree with the axe. It bounces, it bruises, it splinters, but it does not cut. If the tree yields, it does so out of sympathy. In fact, most years, I have stumped back to the barn, Christmas spirit evaporating, and fetched a saw.

Once the tree is lying, we grab it by the trunk and drag it home. It is usually too tall to fit in the house, and then begins the argument about whether it is better to prune from the top or slash from the bottom. Then, when you might think that we had had a bellyful of cold, prickly tradition, we search for more.

The next attack is on the holly tree. Holly is a male symbol, according to rustic lore, and should be brought into the house only by a man. This is a task that the family are more than happy to delegate to me on the principle that all the prickly elements of Christmas might as well stick together.

Then comes the ivy, the female symbol. This is more of a problem, because ivy is in short supply. There are a few wisps of it creeping up the wall of the stockyard, and in previous years it was considered an unparalleled display of meanness on my part that even at Christmas I was unwilling to part with even a few yards of the stuff. This was, I would say in defence, in a good cause, because shortly after Christmas we would start lambing and there is, according to old wisdom, nothing more refreshing for a newly delivered ewe than a mouthful of ivy. Draping it around the house seemed a waste.

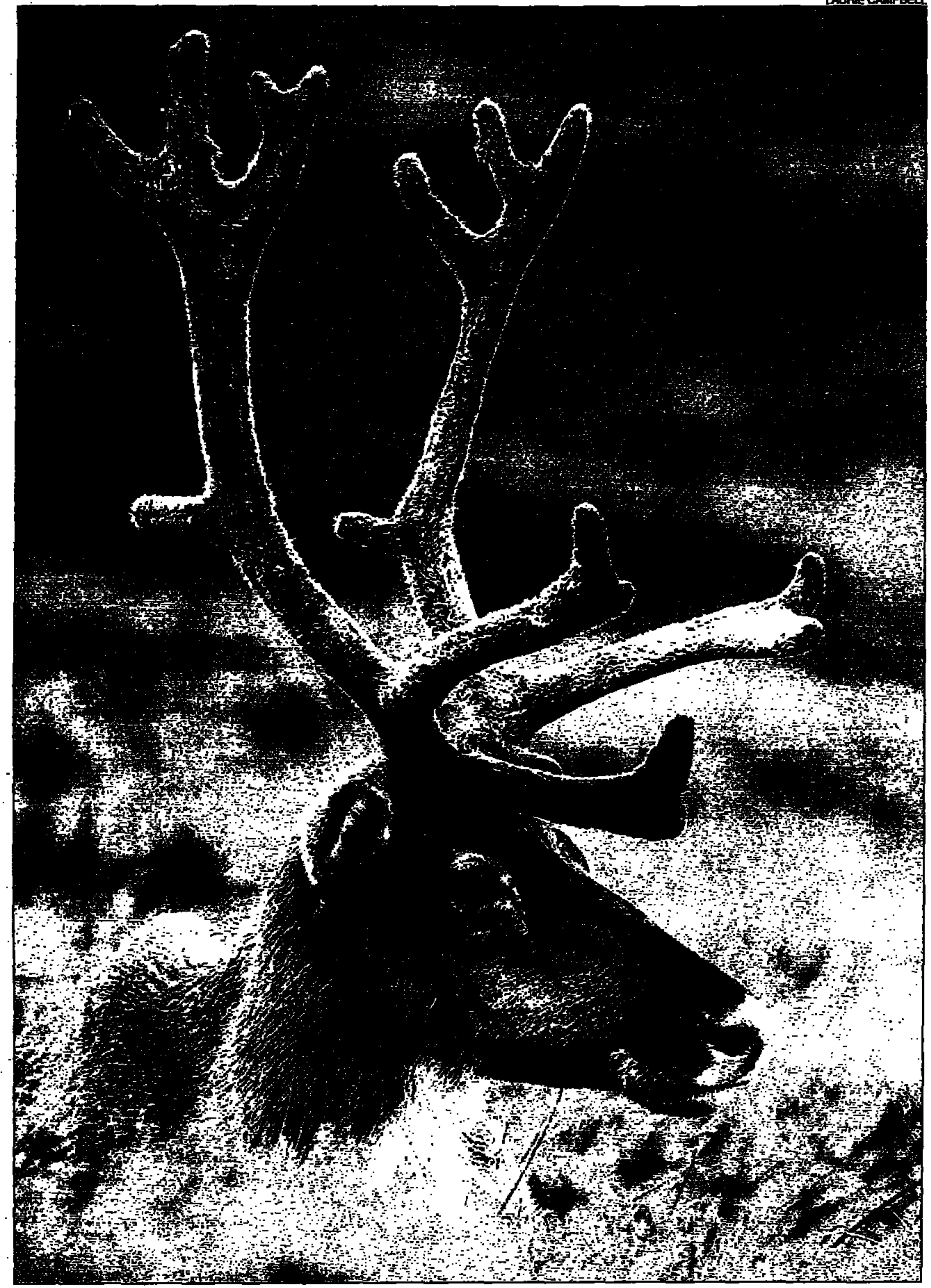
We have no laurel; only yew, which is pretty but lethal to animals, and so I prefer to keep it in one place. This means that the holly tree comes under considerable attack every year and shows its disgust by failing to fruit. Sterile holly is considered a harbinger of bad luck if brought into the house. It would be even worse luck for the tree if it did fruit, because berried holly attracts a good price and the temptation to sell some might be overwhelming.

However, I fear our traditional start to Christmas may be coming to an end. The problem is that there are insufficient Christmases in the year to use up our trees at the rate they are growing in height. I always fail to remember this in time to offer them to people with very high ceilings, and so they grow and grow. There is one shorter one left for this year, but after that we shall either be looking for a more accommodating home, perhaps along the lines of Chatsworth, or I shall have to offer them to the nation for, say, Trafalgar Square. However, I would warn the nation that they will have to come and cut it down for themselves. This lumberjack is retiring. Merry Christmas.

Readers' letters are welcome on countryside matters, of all kinds. Address them to: Paul Heiney, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. They are published on the first Saturday of the month.

Lapping it up in Scotland

LAURIE CAMPBELL



Highland life: the Scottish landscape is similar to the reindeer's native habitat. Above, left, feeding time

Reindeer are back in Scotland after 2,000 years, says **Alison Culliford**

It is 7.30am and a crowd is already gathering in a Georgian square behind one of London's better-known department stores. "Aren't you a gorgeous thing? Oh, you're so beautiful. Yes, yes, you are," coos an American woman.

The object of her attention shakes his antlers and rolls his eyes. He is Crackle, an eight-year-old reindeer, and he and four comrades are being coaxed into harness by a softly-spoken Scotsman, to pull Santa's sleigh. At the same time Amish, a five-month-old calf, has decided to lie down in the road.

A queue of motorists forms patiently behind her, not quite believing what they are seeing. A policeman tentatively pushes the rump of one of the animals in an effort to get past.

"Don't worry, they don't kick," says Tilly Smith, the reindeer's guardian, who is dressed in Eskimo boots and a fake-fur trimmed jacket. Her husband, Alan, has rejected this attire for the waxed jacket that he wears every day — which is reassuring for the reindeer, who are puzzled by the man in a red coat and a white beard who keeps appearing from nowhere.

Reindeer are surprisingly small, short-necked and compact, with antlers that are extravagantly large for their body size. Their association with Father Christmas was sealed by the American poet Clement C. Moore at the beginning of the last century, when Prancer and Dancer, Donner and Blitzen appeared in a poem written for his children, entitled *The Night Before Christmas*. Red-nosed Rudolph wasn't much to do with Christmas at all — the song was written in the Thirties to take a swipe at Prohibition.

Bells jangling, they set off, Santa ho-ho-ing and the crowd waving. For half an hour Knightsbridge comes to a halt. But the pipe band leading the procession is disappearing into the distance. "Can't you go a bit faster?" a policeman yells at Alan. "No," is his categorical answer.

We turn the corner and suddenly we are surrounded by swirling snowflakes. It is the store's snow machine, but for the children straining over the railings this is a piece of magic, a tantalising glimpse of Christmas with a Santa who may or may not be real, pulled by reindeer which most definitely are. Santa disappears with his sack of presents and the reindeer head back to Lapland ... or so the crowd thinks.

In fact they are munching from their feed bags in an underground car park before being loaded into a racehorse lorry and returning to their home in the Cairngorms. For the stars of Santa's Christmas selective appearances around Britain spend the rest of the year happily grazing above the snow line as part of Britain's only herd of reindeer. Although reindeer were native to the Highlands thousands of years ago, it took a Sami tribesman from Swedish Lapland to reintroduce them. In the late Forties, Mikel Utsi visited Scotland with his Swedish-American anthropologist wife, Dr Ethel Lindgren, and was struck by the similarity of the landscape to the reindeer territories of Lapland.

In 1953, he brought eight animals over with the intention of introducing a new source of food for postwar Britain. After initial setbacks, the reindeer thrived. A few decades later, he hired Alan, the son of a hill-farmer, as a keeper. Tilly, a zoology graduate, went up there to work, fell in love with Alan and stayed.

When Dr Lindgren died, Tilly and Alan took over the herd, but had to find a way to make the reindeer pay for themselves. Farming them for meat had never taken off, and besides, as Britain's only herd they have an important conservation role to play. Utsi had trained some of the gelded males to pull sleds in the Lapp tradition, and had allowed a couple of the animals to appear in a film, so the couple built on what he had started.

You only have to see them pulling a sleigh to realise that they are perfectly at home with their role. "Aside from the caribou of North America, all reindeer are domesticated and have been for centuries," explains Tilly. "We train them in a couple of hours."

Back in the Cairngorms, three inches of snow has fallen but the reindeer can deal with it. Their coats are superbly adapted: each hair is hollow and traps warmth, so they can lie in snow. Their feet are flat like camels, for walking on snow and digging to get at lichen below, and their noses are furry to protect them from frostbite.

Alan calls them: "Lo-lo, come on now", and from a distance of two miles they trek down the hillside for their meal of maize and sugar beet. Feeding them is a delightful experience. They nuzzle into your hand with their velvety noses and chomp contentedly.

The feeding supplements their diet but it is mainly done to encourage the reindeer to come down for visitors. They have the run of 6,000 acres of mountain that has the Cairngorms ski resort running through the middle of it. Some greedy reindeer have been known to hang around the car park looking for titbits, and there are always one or two mischievous ones. Ove was a skirtlifter: he would go up behind women and lift their skirts with his antlers, knowing that visitors would laugh. Albert used to biff small children with his foot, given half a chance.

Frost loves to jab you in the back with his antlers. "It's not malicious, but he knows how to pick his moment — just when you are on the edge of a stream, he'll send you off-balance so you fall in," says Tilly.

The final appearance of the Christmas season takes place in Grantown-on-Spey, a few miles from home, on Christmas Eve. It is a candlelit procession that has been going on since Mikel Utsi's day. "It's extra-special because the local people see them as their reindeer," says Tilly. "And for us it is the light at the end of the tunnel. We know we'll be putting our feet up on Christmas Day, and the reindeer will go back to foraging on the hills until next year."

● *The Cairngorm Reindeer Centre, Glenmore, Aviemore, Inverness-shire, PH22 1QU.*

FACT FILE

■ No people on earth are closer to the reindeer than the Laplanders or Sami, the bedouin of the far north. They are perhaps the last nomadic tribe of Europe and the reindeer feeds, clothes and shelters the Sami and sustains their economy.

■ The BBC film *On the Path of the Reindeer*, which will be screened tomorrow, follows the Arctic wanderers and their herds. The Sami maintain an ethnic coherence across the borders of some of the richest nations on earth, Sweden, Finland and Norway. Many now live in homes, and enjoy western consumer comforts. But the BBC producer Bernard Walton found Sami in Norway who are still nomadic.

■ Like all true Sami they do not own land, only semi-wild reindeer, and they constantly move the herds to more promising areas of snow. In the late summer travelling abattoirs in huge pantechnicons tour the herds and take meat for the Scandinavian market. The Sami then take the remainder of the herd inland, where the winters are colder but with less snow.

GARETH HUW DAVIES

● *On the Path of the Reindeer*, tomorrow (Sunday), BBC2, 5.55pm.

ON THE SPOT: HIGHGATE CEMETERY

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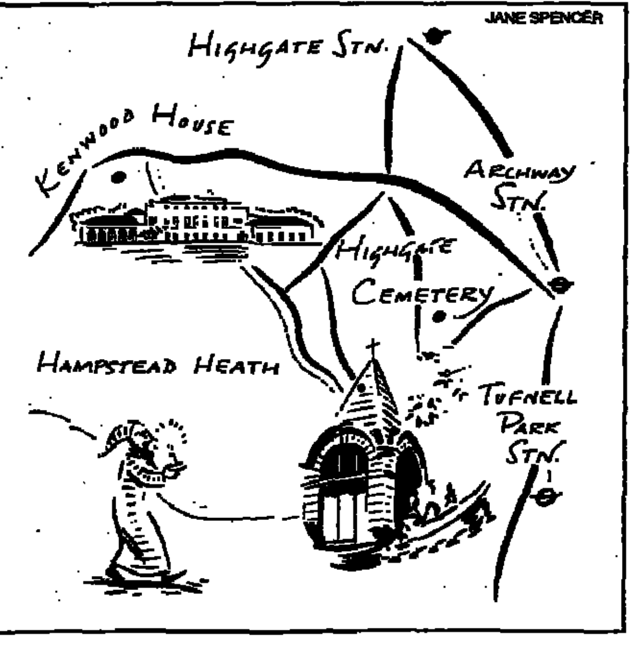
Historical Interest: the cemetery, which has over 52,000 graves, opened in 1839 — one year after Charles Dickens wrote *A Christmas Carol*. His wife and daughter share a grave here, and Karl Marx is buried here, too. The West Cemetery has a wealth of Grade I or II listed buildings and is now a managed woodland.
Time to visit: open at weekends for guided tours between 11am and 3pm.
How to get there: a short walk from Highgate Tube station.
OS ref: 283/872 on sheet 176
Also Nearby: Hampstead Heath and 17th-century Kenwood House.

DEBORAH KING

JANE SPENCER



Bitterns play a bit part

FEATHER REPORT

THE BITTERNS are back in the Lee Valley, just north of London. These secretive herons are now regular winter visitors to a tiny patch of reeds by a lake at Cheshunt, and birdwatchers have been flocking in from all over Britain to get a glimpse of them. There is now a large hide overlooking the reeds, called the "Bittern Watchpoint", and managed by the Lee Valley Park authority. It is open free at weekends, and on weekdays for £1 a day.

But will you see the bitterns? That is the question. They are large birds, but they are so beautifully camouflaged in the reeds that you can be looking at one a few yards away from you and still not see it. In front, their barred, broken plumage looks just like a tangle of reeds, and as they lean slowly over a fish before stabbing it, the fish can see nothing coming. Above, their plumage is also like a confused pattern of light and shade, but is slightly darker, so that it blends perfectly with the dark tops of the reeds, and is invisible to an enemy such as a marsh harrier overhead.

However, last week I saw one — and possibly two. I was in the hide with some very frustrated birdwatchers, who had been peering through the slots in front of the hide for several hours without seeing a single movement in the reeds, except for coots and moorhens swimming merrily through.

Suddenly a woman said: "It's there!" Anguished murmurs of "Where? where?" "At the edge of the reeds, just by the door!" I should explain that there are several channels cut through the reeds, with a floating door in one of them.

But the watchers did not need to strain their eyes any more, because at that moment the bird stepped out on to the door and stood there. We had a spectacular view of it. It was as big as a turkey, and was leaning forward with its long, thick neck stretched out. We could see its deadly bluish bill, its gleaming orange eye, and all the variegated markings of its plump body. We also saw the shadowy blue tinge of this particular bird's back, which other observers have noted, but which does not correspond with the pictures in bird books. Then it walked slowly across the door, and disappeared into the reeds on the other side.

A nature photographer and engineer, Vic Sessin, spent 70 long days in the hide in the winter of 1995-96, and managed to see far more than most observers have done. He saw how fiercely two bitterns that were in the reedbed that winter defended their territories, and the little jig that one danced after it had driven the other off. He also found that they roosted above the water, so that their feet would not get frozen into the ice. With each of their powerful feet, they gripped a whole column of reed stems, and these supported them through the night. Oddest of all, he found that they would sometimes play with small sticks, and he once saw a bittern catch a fish, play with it in its beak, then gently put it back in the water.

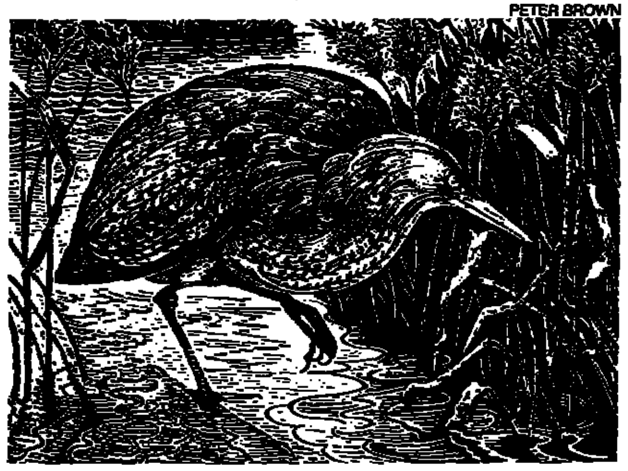
Sometimes bitterns just rest in the reeds with their beak pointing to the sky. Besides the bird on the door, I think I also saw one doing that last week. There was certainly some tall, motionless shape in the reeds, and I think I picked out the flecked feathers of a bittern's flank. So was it a bittern imitating a clump of reeds, or a clump of reeds imitating a bittern? I shall never know.

Information from Lee Valley Park Countryside Centre, Abbey Gardens, Waltham Abbey, Essex EN9 1XQ (01992 713838).

DERWENT MAY

● **What's about:** *Birders — look out for visiting Smew at local gravel pits.*
Twitchers — watch for a Laughing Gull at Drift Reservoir, Cornwall; a Pallas's Warbler at Ventnor, Isle of Wight; a Ferruginous Duck at Kingsbury Waterpark, Warwickshire. Details from Birdline 0891 700222. Calls cost 40p a minute cheap rate, 50p at all other times.

PETER BROWN



Bittern: an elusive heron easily camouflaged by reeds

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National Trust Christmas Walks. Guided walks from more than 50 NT properties throughout the country. Some walks are free, others range from £2 to £4.50, including refreshments. Full details from local NT offices or on 0171-222 9251.
Winter Birdwatching. On Strangford Lough, Co Down. Winter is the best time to view migrant birds. Accommodation in NT properties sleeping six, on the Castle Ward estate, from £166 in January to £365 Christmas/New Year. Full details on 01225 791199.
Quad Biking. Tank Driving. Dune Buggy Driving. Other outdoor activities also available on a 500-acre estate on Royal Deeside. From £70 a day, gift vouchers available. Accommodation can be arranged locally. Full details from Tartan Collection Activities (0133-988 3500).

PICTURES

Spend Christmas quad biking on Royal Deeside

NEW YEAR

Line Dancing. At Higham Hall Residential College, Bassenthwaite Lake, Cockermouth, Cumbria (017687 76276), January 2-4. Instruction from the basics up to the more intricate Western dances.
Guided New Year Walks from the Rothay Garden Hotel, Grasmere, Cumbria (015394 35334). Daily weather forecasts and a choice of routes on Grasmere and Windermere fells. From £225.
New Year Retreat. At the Ammerdown Centre, Radstock, near Bath (01761 433709). Start 1998 with a short period of reflection.
Multi-Activity Breaks. Archery, quad biking, clay pigeon shooting, go-karting; all available from The Haycock, Wansford, Peterborough, Cambs (01780 782223). From £110 for two nights.
Welsh Border Breaks. Patchwork and rugmaking, birdwatching, china mending, drawing, painting and gardening skills are among the activities on the Welsh Marches with Acorn Activities of Hereford (01432 830083).
Organic Gardening: Herb Gardens: Food as Medicine: Art and Medieval History: Aromatherapy: Hereford and Gloucestershire Churches: Walking in the Wye Valley. A small selection of the varied courses at Courtfield Manor, Goodrich, Herefordshire (01594 861435). From £85-£100.
Egyptology. Two-day course on the wonders of Ancient Egypt at Burton Manor College, South Wirral (0151-336 5172). Price £98 inclusive.
The Paston Letters: Writers' Venice: the Art and Architecture of the Islamic World. University of Cambridge (01954 210636). January 2-4. Price per course £120, inclusive.
Cabinet Making: Refinishing Antique Furniture: Basic Blacksmithing: Learning to Exploit your Auto Camera. January 2-4 at West Dean College, Chichester, Sussex (01243 811301). Prices £150 residential or £97 non-residential.
Intermediate and Advanced Chess: Looking at and Seeing Paintings. January 2-4 at the Wedgwood Memorial College, Barlaston, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs (01782 372105). Price, all inclusive, £70.
Calling All Pianists; Boxes and Gifts in Fabric: Self-Help and Complementary Therapies. At Knuston Hall Residential College, Irchester, Northants (01933 312104). Price £89.

JANUARY 9-11

Belly Dancing. Learn the basics of this exotic Eastern dance on a weekend course at Burton Manor College, South Wirral, Cheshire (0151-336 5172). Price, all inclusive, £98.
Barber Shop Singing: Winter Landscape Painting: France and England, a Love-Hate Relationship: Writing Magazine Articles. A selection of courses available at Missenden Abbey, Great Missenden, Bucks (01494 890295): from £159 residential, £69 non-residential.
Writing Romantic Fiction: Chinese Brushwork. At Dillington House, Ilminster, Somerset (01460 52427). From £110, inclusive.
Confidence Building for Women: Video Editing Workshop. Two interesting courses at Higham Hall, Bassenthwaite Lake, Cockermouth, Cumbria (017687 76276). From £112.
Exploring Spain; Computing Skills: Reflexology. At the Hill Residential Centre, Abergavenny, South Wales (01495 333777). From £88, inclusive.
Get Fit for the New Year; Calming Techniques and Alternative Therapies: Lino Printing. At the Lancashire College, Chorley, Lancs (01257 260909. Price per course, £95.
An Italian Weekend; The Ritual Year; Ancient Egyptian Painting; English Furniture: the Walnut Period, c.1660-1730. Four varied courses at the University of Cambridge: Madingley Hall (01954 21063). Price £120.
The Early 19th-Century Great House. At the University of Oxford, Department of Continuing Education, Rewley House (01865 270360). Price £64, accommodation available.
The Holy Land and the Old Testament; Literature on Venice; America in the 1960s. At the Wansfell College, Theydon Bois, Essex (01882 813027). Price £85.

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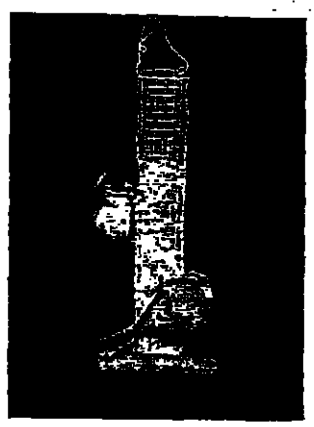
A VET WRITES

Q I put most of our Christmas leftovers out for the birds. But a friend said she had heard that salty foods could be lethal. Is this so?

A Excessive amounts of salt will poison any animal, but it doesn't follow that one salted peanut, a few broken crisps, some bacon rind or a sliver of ham will kill visitors to your bird table.

There is salt in most foods. Bakers put it in bread, cooks salt potatoes and most vegetables. I'm told that pork crackling is crisper if it is oiled and salted.

Avoid lots of highly salted food. Moisten all the food and make sure water is always available (salt poisoning usually occurs when drinking water is in short supply). Anything fit for us is, in moderation, all right for the birds. Fat is excellent — full of energy. And most important of all, keep the bird table well stocked until the end of March. One week's feast is not enough. Birds can't store Christmas goodies.


Christmas bird table treats

Q For years we have had a rib of beef on Boxing Day — and there's one ready to go in the oven this year. I know Nanny Government has decreed that bone must be removed from British beef before we are allowed to eat it, although the meat itself (if British) is presumed risk-free. But what about the bones? Prince, our five-year-old golden retriever, has always had them as his post-Christmas treat. Now I am worried. Is there any risk to Prince?

A None — for two good reasons. Dogs don't appear to be susceptible to BSE or any of the other encephalopathies. There was one report of a suspected case in a Norwegian dog, but it has never been confirmed.

Secondly, British beef is the safest in the world. Your Christmas joint will have come from an animal below 30 months of age and been adequately inspected before and after slaughter.

There's more chance of winning first prize in the lottery three weeks running than buying a rib of beef with BSE prions in the bone.

Q My 11-year-old cat has a bald patch around her neck underneath her flea collar. It's not sore and doesn't seem to worry her, but it has been there for a long time. Could the collar be the cause, and if so, what should I do?

A It could be as simple as rubbing by the collar or perhaps a mild allergic reaction to the collar material, or the insecticide in the collar. The first step is to remove the collar. There are other ways of controlling fleas, either by medicines administered orally or drops poured on to a cat's fur. Ask your vet to recommend the best for your cat. Regrowth of the fur will take at least six weeks.

You haven't mentioned the colour of your cat, but whatever it is, the hairs that emerge to cover the bald patch may be white.

JAMES ALLCOCK

- *Write to The Times Vet, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. Advice is offered without legal responsibility.*

ADOPT ME

Lili: needs a loving home

LILI IS a five-year-old female tortoiseshell cat who has been with the Cats Protection League for more than a year. She is affectionate with a loud purr, but is initially nervous with strangers. Lili would suit a home without young children or other cats or dogs. If you would like to adopt her, contact the Cats Protection League (0151-670 5341).

This is a job for ... superdogs

Sue Corbett meets the heroic hounds and handlers who can be counted on in a crisis

GUY NEWMAN

Action stations for the rescue squad in the search for a group of girls missing on Dartmoor

AFP

A Red Cross team in Cairo combs the debris of a collapsed building

CHRIS BACON

Dogs are trained to work with, and travel in, rescue helicopters

When six schoolgirls went missing on Dartmoor a fortnight ago, there was one organisation the emergency services knew they could rely on to help in their search — the Dartmoor Rescue Group. Within hours of being called, rescuers and their dogs had been airlifted by helicopter on to the moors, to sniff out and hunt down the missing girls.

The group is made up not just of volunteers who have taken part in an intensive search and survival course, but dogs taken through rigorous training co-ordinated by a national body, the Search and Rescue Dog Association.

Dogs played a major part in the teamwork coordinated by John Elson, who spent the last three hours of his 49th birthday on the moor looking for the girls. Because of the biting cold and winds, he says, searchers only 10 to 15 metres apart could not hear each other shout.

"We have a thing we call the probability of detection — the percentage chance of our finding somebody," he says. "A dog runs about an 80 per cent chance of finding someone in an area he's searching. With a foot team of six to eight men, it's something like 60 per cent and with a helicopter only 18 per cent.

"Dogs work best in certain areas. They're not good in a forest because the scent doesn't travel across. Our dogs all search out air scents — as opposed to police dogs, which are trail searchers.

"A search-and-rescue dog, picking up air scent on the wind, can range about a kilometre away from the handler. As soon as the dog picks up the scent, he will turn into it.

"It's an inbuilt sense, but you have to fine-tune it so that, when they do find the scent, they come back and tell you — that's the difficult bit."

In their two-year training programme, the dogs are taught not only how to find people, but also how to cope with helicopters. Nigel Gordon, one of the dog handlers involved in the Dartmoor search, says that to do this, the dogs are taken out to a remote area, and a helicopter is brought in to land. "When it switches off, we let the dogs run around it and familiarise themselves with the smells before taking them on board and letting them sniff around.

"It's when the rotors start turning that the dogs start to get uneasy. But slowly we get them to accept that whatever we present to them is OK."

In the Dartmoor search, however, the dogs were thankfully not needed after all. After a night huddled together in their sleeping bags, telling jokes, the girls wandered off to a farmhouse and safety.

Another Dartmoor dog handler, Paddy Cummins, 55, remembers a rather different scenario when he and his German wirehaired pointer, Solo, were searching for a group of teenagers who had been missing for some time.

Being boys, they had told each other ghost stories instead of jokes.

"At night," says Mr Cummins, "we attach a green chemical light to the dog's jacket so we can see where it is. When Solo found the boys' tent and started running around it, all they could see was this eerie glow.

"I could hear them screaming from 200 metres away, but Solo wasn't bothered, and just came back to me and indicated she had found them. Finding children gives you a real high."

Solo is an unusual breed for a search dog. Most are Border collies — "very biddable," says Mr Gordon, owner of four-year-old Max. "They're easily taught, they mature quite young and they have a very long working life.

"Most of us don't have a lot of time to spend bringing on one of the harder breeds. German shepherds are excellent dogs, with a very good nose, but as they're strong characters, they can be time-consuming to train."

Mike Amps, chairman of the voluntary Search and Rescue Dog Association (England), owns a Border collie, but is also an advocate for the German shepherd.

"With search dogs, we are concentrating on airborne scent rather than ground scent, so a GSD (German shepherd dog) standing higher may be able to pick up a bit more scent from further away than a collie can."

About 30 per cent of the Dartmoor team are women, as are some of the country's best dog-handlers. Eleanor Dale, 44, a member of the Calder Valley Search and Rescue Team based at Mytholmroyd West, Yorkshire, won the Search and Rescue Dog Association's novice shield two years ago. A month after she won it, her Border collie, Bonnie, made her first real rescue, when she found the distressed driver of an abandoned car sheltering behind a wall.

"Training takes an awful lot of time and hard work — every night in the early stages," says Ms Dale, a country park ranger. "We start off with a game where someone runs a short distance, drawing the dog's attention as they go, and sits down. You let her go off to them and then call her back to you. Gradually the exercise gets longer and more complicated — the dog doesn't see the person going away and the search might last a few hours."

Once past the novice grade — it takes at least 18 months to achieve — dog and handler will be on standby 24 hours of the day, 365 days of the year, to search for missing people, mostly on mountains and moorland, but really anywhere in Britain that they might be called out to.

> 'A dog has about an 80 per cent chance of finding someone'

Many dogs and their handlers throughout the country had the unhappy task of being ferried north to hunt for bodies in the aftermath of the Lockerbie air disaster. But their usual aim is the less distressing one of finding people alive.

Ian Spreckley, who claims that at 61 he is the oldest search dog handler in England, enjoyed a happier experience a couple of years ago. After a 12-hour search in Dartmoor in a temperatures of about -4C, his Border collie, Tarn, found an adult with a mental age of four, clad in only sweatshirt and jeans, having taken his socks and shoes off.

"Tarn suddenly lifted her head, shot off 200 or 300 metres, jumped two barbed-wire fences and then came flying back to me barking her head off. These are really the moments when the commitment in time and energy pays off in job satisfaction."

- *For details of the associations, contact the national secretary at 10 Y Berlian, Penmaenmawr, Conwy, Gwynedd, LL34 6HR. Web site: http://www.bluedome.co.uk/sarda*

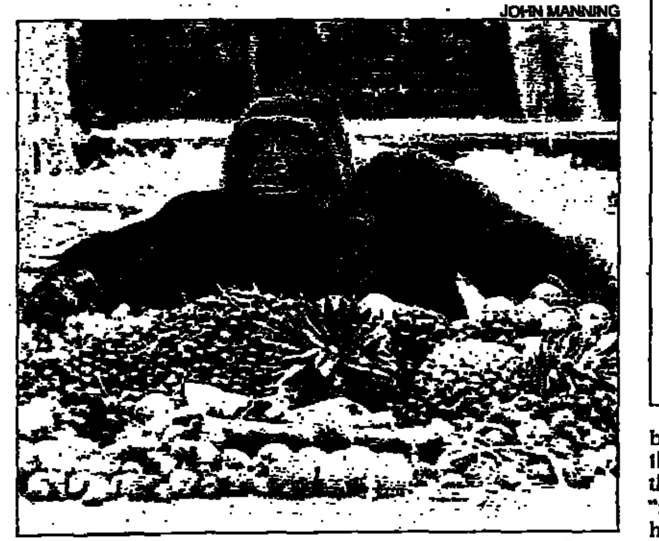
Looking for a totally different present this Christmas? **Alex Wijeratne** discovers how a rhino could make the perfect stocking filler

Adopting a break with tradition

PA

Taking a rhino for walkies in the local park could present a major challenge. So they stay in Swaziland, but become your long-distance pet in the wild

JOHN MANNING


Make a new friend — and adopt a mountain gorilla

Why not break with convention this Christmas and give your dear one an elephant or a dolphin? You could even test the bonds of affection by giving a dung beetle or a cockroach.

Pets are seldom a good idea as Christmas presents — a confused animal bestowed on an unprepared recipient at a stressful time of the year often ends up neglected by January. A better course is to join an animal adoption scheme.

You can adopt almost any animal: from badgers, chimps, dormice and elephants, to crickets, seals and wolves.

"When someone asks what you had for Christmas, and you reply, 'A wolf pack', then you've got a cracking subject for conversation," says Will Travers, chief executive of the Born Free Foundation, one of two charities *The Times* is raising money for in this year's Christmas appeal.

It is surprisingly cheap to buy a slice of an animal through a reputable scheme. It costs £17.50 a year, for example, to adopt one of two wolf packs in the Web Valley, Bale, in the Sanetti plateau of Ethiopia. With only 400 mountain wolves in existence, they are the most threatened species in the world. "For less than 50p a week you can feel part of something that will save a species from extinction," Mr Tavers says. The money goes toward monitoring the packs and local education programmes.

"Because of an abundance of low-cost weapons, there is a problem with villagers using wolves as target practice. We are trying to stop this. We teach animal husbandry and explain that these wolves prey mainly on mole rats not local livestock," Travers says.

Adopters receive updates and field reports. Other schemes send out T-shirts, certificates and videos.

You might prefer to be involved with a long-term project that helps mountain gorillas in Central Africa with the Dian Fossey wildlife charity. Only one gorilla, a four-year-old named Amy, is available for adoption (for £19.95 a year) from a 30-strong pack that survives in the rainforests of the Virunga volcanoes straddling Rwanda, Uganda and the Congo.

Fewer than 650 mountain gorillas remain, says Jillian Miller, a director of Dian Fossey, and their habitat is being depleted, ravaged by the militia and war. More than 3,000 people have "adopted" Amy, and many have been to visit her.

"Grown men cry when they see her," Ms Miller says. "They creep through the rainforest for three hours and, when they spot each other, there's a massive connection. It's overwhelming."

Bill Jordan, chairman of Care for the Wild, says that adopting animals reconnects people with the environment. "Children have a deep love for animals. Adopting is a brilliant way of fostering that connection."

Jordan says that ordinary people like the schemes Care for the Wild runs — safeguarding elephants in Kenya and tigers in India — because they can see where their money is going. "They feel deeply attached to the success of each operation," he says, mentioning a recent effort where 500 elephants were moved 250km in Zimbabwe to prevent poaching.

"It's very practical," he says. "In India we donated £100,000 of equipment to help save tigers. That provided 17 motor bikes, four Jeeps, two trucks and two motor boats."

This personal identification lies behind the success of Adopt-a-Dolphin, run by the Whale & Dolphin Conservation Society in Britain. More than 17,000 people adopt dolphins (for £17.50 a year) from a pod of 25-30 in the Moray Firth off the east coast of Scotland. "Adopters can take out boats and bow-ride with the dolphins," says Ivo Smith, the society's fundraising officer. "By reducing matters to a single animal, it is easier for children to see how each fits into the wider environment."

Tusk Force runs rhino adoption projects in Swaziland and Namibia and is planning one for a manatee (an aquatic cow-like mammal) in Lake Volta, Ghana. However, it also recognises that many British species are also under threat. "The watervole is as endangered as the tiger," says Neela Bettridge, chief executive of Tusk Force, which captures, breeds and reintroduces domestic watervoles and dormice back into the wild.

Perhaps the best place to adopt animals is London Zoo. Every one of the zoo's 650 species can be sponsored, some for as little as £20 a year. Shares in individual animals cost £30, the most popular being penguins, tigers, elephants and sloth bears. A whole elephant costs £6,000 a year; a giraffe, £1,500. Not surprisingly, the least adopted creatures are cockroaches, ponies and field crickets.

- *For more information on adopting animals, contact: the Born Free Foundation (01306 712091); Care for the Wild (01293 871596); Dian Fossey (0171-916 4974); London Zoo (0171-449 6262); Tusk Force (0181-743 8855); Whale & Dolphin Conservation Society (01225 867770). To donate money to the Born Free Foundation, send a cheque to Born Free, Coldharbour, Surrey RH5 6HA.*

Saints come marching in

Who are the greatest saints of all time?

Ruth Gledhill invites readers to nominate their holy heroes

IN THE run-up to Christmas, why not offer up a prayer or two of veneration for the saint whose life is commemorated today? Dominic of Silos, patron saint of captive prisoners and of shepherds, can apparently be invoked in the event of encounters with mad dogs and insects. A shepherd-turned-monk who was born on the dot of the last millennium, he lived for 73 years.

His success in praying for a local aristocrat during a difficult pregnancy caused the woman to name her son Dominic, and this boy went on to found the Dominican friars. Dominic of Silos is one of the most popular saints in Spain, and his staff is given to Spanish queens during their confinements.

Next week's saints include St Servulus, who can be invoked against paralysis; St Thorlac of Iceland; and Adam, the patron saint of gardeners.

But besides the "official" saints of the Roman Catholic church — the men and women who were martyred for their faith, or who are deemed to have lived lives of "heroic virtue" and to whom at least two miracles can be attested — millions of people privately invoke saints of their own. These people were not necessarily Catholics, or even Christians. But they embody a holiness that inspires reverence and provide a focus for the spiritual, moral or political longings of a culture.

Mahatma Gandhi would be one example of such a person, the Princess of Wales another.

The Times is inviting readers to nominate their favourite, most useful, helpful or important saint. Readers are invited to describe why they are personally drawn to this saint, why they think he or she is important or significant to our times, and why they appreciate the qualities embodied by this saint. These can be described in terms of the saint's morality, holiness, lifestyle, or manner of death in the case of a Christian martyr. Veneration might be expressed through prayer, icons or simply get-togethers with like-minded followers. *Times* readers of any country and religion are invited to contribute.

The most interesting and enlightening accounts will be drawn into *The Times Book of Saints*, to be published by Cassell for next Christmas. The aim is to gain insight into the spirituality of our culture today.

"The idea of saintliness and what it means to be a saint is very much on the agenda at the moment," says Gillian Paterson, religious publisher at Cassell. "What was it about Diana, Princess of Wales that caught the spirit of the age? It had nothing to do with institutional religion.

"I might pray to St Anthony to help me find the car keys or I might model myself on Gandhi or Oscar Romero [the outspoken Archbishop of El Salvador, assassinated in 1980] or Mother Teresa."

'Saints are very much on the agenda just now'

The first documentary evidence of a saint is in the second-century martyrology, *Martyrium Polycarpi*, a graphic description of how Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna, was burnt at the stake at the age of 85, and where the bishop's followers state their intention of "celebrating the birthday of his martyrdom".

Mahatma Gandhi provided a focus for the spiritual, moral and political longings of Indian culture

Saintly: Mother Teresa and Diana, Princess of Wales

Two millennia later the need for saints has not diminished. This is witnessed by the decision of the authorities at Westminster Abbey to place statues of ten 20th-century martyrs above the Great West Door. To be unveiled next summer, they will include Martin Luther King, the American civil rights campaigner murdered in 1969, and the German pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer, murdered by Nazis in 1945.

According to Lawrence Cunningham, of Florida State University, people look to saints because they provide the model for Christian living appropriate to our age. Writing in *The New Dictionary of Theology* (Gill and Macmillan, Dublin) he says: "Christian orthodoxy need not be a controlling factor, as the interest in someone like Mahatma Gandhi amply demonstrates."

● *Readers who wish to contribute to* The Times Book of Saints *should write to Ruth Gledhill at* The Times, *1 Pennington St, London E1 9XN or call her on 0171-782 5001.* The Times Best Sermons for 1998 *and* The Times Book of Prayers *(both Cassell, £9.90) are available from bookshops.*

ALL SAINTS

- **Agricola of Avignon: invoked against storms and plagues of storks. Seventh century French cleric who banished an infestation of storks.**
- **Agrippina: Patroness invoked against demons, leprosy and storms. Roman maiden who was stripped, scourged and executed by Emperor Valerian in AD262.**
- **Gregory the Wonderworker: invoked in times of earthquake and flood. Born *circa* 213, he preached in Caesarea (modern-day Turkey), working miracles, including changing the course of a river and moving a mountain.**
- **Notker Balbulus: invoked against stammering. Ninth-century monk who pioneered Gregorian chant. His name means "the stutterer", a defect he overcame in music.**
- **Venantius: invoked against danger from falling. Early martyr who was thrown from a cliff but bounced back until his head was cut off.**

ANDREW YATES

Christmas is for the old, too

Ruth Gledhill visits a young-in-heart old folk's Methodist home

DR PAULINE WEBB, aged 70 but looking about 55, used to live in a flat called "The Stables", but left there to go to "The Paddocks". She hopes she might one day move into "The Meadow". It is rare to find an elderly person being so positive about a residential home for the elderly, as The Meadow inevitably is. But Dr Webb was referring to an exceptional example of this much-feared genre.

We were there at a service to celebrate the £2 million refurbishment of The Meadow, a home run by Methodist Homes for the Aged, which takes local authority referrals.

Christmas can be a bleak time for the elderly, particularly in an era when the fashion throughout the churches is to emphasise their mission to young people and families. Many elderly men and women, already isolated from their families, are today feeling additionally forgotten and neglected by the churches. A survey has disclosed the scarcity of religious services at residential homes.

This home, one of 37 run by Methodist Homes for the Aged, but open to people of all denominations and religions, is an exception to that rule. Built in the gardens of a substantial home, once belonging to a London grandee, and to which a church is attached, the home has its own chaplain, the Rev David Mullins, who visits regularly.

The Rev David James, superintendent minister of the London New River circuit, welcomed us with the news that the minister who officiated at his wedding and his ordination was now a resident in the home. "That is one of the examples of the family spirit of Methodism, which is to be found in what is truly a home from home," he said.

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Dr Webb, a former vice-president of the Methodist Conference and a former head of religious broadcasting at the BBC's World Service, chose the text from St John's gospel where the disciples say to Jesus: "Rabbi, where do you live?" He says: "Come and see." Dr Webb said: "Isn't it tantalising that he [John] does not go on to tell us where they went and what the place was like? I would love to read a magazine article describing the room where Jesus lived, like they have with famous people today. We learn so much about a person's personality from the furniture and decor of their home."

The Meadow, she said, was a place of conversation where sometimes the talk became very deep. "As we get older, we do think more profoundly about the meaning of our lives," she said, and described a woman who became indignant on hearing that Jesus said: "In my father's house there are many resting places." Her retort was: "In my last home, they always promised us a mansion."

● *Methodist Homes for the Aged, Epworth House, Stuart Street, Derby DE1 2EQ (01332 296200).*

Dr Pauline Webb: an outstanding preacher

The case for believing in heaven's angels

Credo

JOHN HALDANE

Christmas is coming and the shops are shining bright. Although the festival is increasingly secular, there remains an attachment to nativity scenes showing the Holy Family, with shepherds below and angels above. In a few weeks these symbols of the Christian message will have been packed away, and one asks what, if anything, is likely to persist in popular consciousness? Surprisingly, perhaps, the answer may be "the angels".

This decade there has been popular interest in angelic beings. Gift shops and museum stores regularly set aside sections to display angel diaries, candle holders, bookends and so on. It might seem odd that in an age in which orthodox religion has declined, so traditional a feature should attract attention. It is also ironic that so elevated a theme be selected for commerce in decorative fancies. In fact, the concept of "messengers from on high" represented by cherub candles is anything but traditional.

Angels, along with space-travelling aliens, have also been the subject of recent books and films. In an era of apparent non-belief, this may again seem odd. If God and priests have been set aside, how can intermediate parties remain credible? The explanation is simple. The denim-clad angels of Hollywood invention and the strangers of supernatural tales represent, at best, degenerate forms of religious sensibility.

Belief in mysterious beings with magical powers is not an effect of Judaeo-Christianity, but a form of superstition which has little, if anything, to do with true religion, the focus of which is God. In their essence Judaism and Christianity are neither sentimental nor occult. They tell plain tales of wonderful things: of creation, fall, covenant and salvation. Therein lie miracles but not magic. Angels have a place in the narrative, but always as tokens of providence, either as agents of God's word or as witnesses to His glory. Somewhere along the way, however, this religious understanding became entangled with superstitions, with the winged beings of Egyptian, Assyrian and Babylonian cults, Persian genies and Gothic creatures of the night. Cross-fertilisation with Judaeo-Christian thought was bound to produce odd fruit.

The implication is not that Christianity should purge itself of belief in angels, but that it should recover its traditional understanding of their place in the scheme of things. Christianity presents a vision of reality as the ordered creation of an almighty God. This appears hierarchical in that we can distinguish inanimate matter from organic life, and between beings which do and do not exhibit intelligence. The thought should then arise: might there not be unembodied intellects?

This is the traditional idea of angels: immaterial intelligences whose existence is taken up with knowing and serving God. According to Aquinas, the angelic visions recorded in scripture were effects produced by spiritual creatures, not "personal appearances".

Now let us return to the Nativity scene. A secularised Christian might be most concerned to dispense with the angels. But dispensing with superstition is misdirected if it seeks to eliminate angels. Understood as spiritual beings, it makes no sense to imagine that they hovered in the sky, but I can hardly suppose that the entry of God into the world was not an event "by highest heaven adored". *Hark the herald angels sing, glory to the newborn king.*

● *The author is Professor of Philosophy at the University of St Andrews.*

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CHANGING TIMES

Church services tomorrow

Fourth Sunday of Advent

ARMAGH CATHEDRAL: 10 HC; 11 S Euch; 3.15 Festival of 9 Lessons & Carols.

BANGOR CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 Boreol Weddi; 11 Ch Euch; 3.15 Ch E & Blessing of the crib; 5 Plygain Y Gadeirlan.

BELFAST CATHEDRAL: 10 HC; 11 S Euch; 3.30 Service of 9 Lessons & Carols.

BIRMINGHAM CATHEDRAL: 9 MP; 9.15 HC; 11 Ch Euch, Harwood in A flat; 2 Cub Scouts Carol Service; 4 Ch E.

BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.15 Ch M; 10.30 Euch, Blackburn Mass (Jackson); 4 Ch E.

BRECON CATHEDRAL: 8 Euch; 11 M, Stanford in B flat; 3.30 E, Third Service (Christopher Knott).

BRISTOL CATHEDRAL: 7.40 M; 8 HC; 10 Ch Euch, Darke in E, Canon P Johnson; 3.30 Ch E, Sumsion in G.

CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; *9.30 M; 11 S Euch, Missa Brevis (Ives);* 3.15 E, Stanford in G; 6.30 Sermon & Compline.

CARLISLE CATHEDRAL: 7.45 M; 8 HC; *10.30 S Euch, Jackson in G, Canon D* Weston; 3.30 Festival of 9 Lessons & Carols.

CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL: 7.30 MP; 8 HC; 9.30 Euch; 11.15 S Euch, Mass of the Quiet Hour (Oldroyd), Canon D Knight; 3 Christingle Service; 6 Ch E.

CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M, Naylor in G; 11 S Euch, O quam gloriosum (Victoria); 5 E; 6 Carols.

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL, Dublin: 11 S Euch, Mass in E flat (Rheinberger); 3.30 Ch E.

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL, Oxford: 8 HC; 10 M, Sumsion in G; 11.15 S Euch, Canon Webster; 6 E, Watson in E.

COVENTRY CATHEDRAL: 7.40 MP; 8 C; *10.30 Euch, 5 Part Mass (Byrd); 5 Ch E,* Short Service (Gibbons).

DERBY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.45 S Euch, *Mozart in C; 6 Ch E, Fantasia and* Fugue in C minor (Bach).

ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC; 10.30 S Euch, *Darke in E, Rev J McFarlane;* 3.45 E, Purcell in G minor.

EXETER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 S Euch, *Ireland in C; 11.15 M, Stanford in B* flat; 3 E; 6.30 ES.

GLOUCESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; *10.15 Euch, Sumsion in F; 12.15 HC; 3 E,* 2nd Service (Gibbons).

GUILDFORD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 *S Euch, Darke in E; 11.30 M, Canon J* Schofield; 6.30 E, Day in B flat.

HEREFORD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 Euch; *11.30 M, Lloyd in D minor;* 3.30 E.

LEICESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M; 10.30 Euch, O quam gloriosum (Victoria); 4 Carol Service.

LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Missa brevis (Berkeley); 3.30 E.

LIVERPOOL CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.30 Euch; 3 Carol Service; 4 HC.

LLANDAFF CATHEDRAL: 8, 9 HC; 11 S Euch; 12.15 HC; 3.30 E; 6.30 E.

MANCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8.45 M; 9 Euch; 10.30 S Euch, Canon P Denby; 6.30 E, Noble in B minor; 8 Organ Recital.

NEWCASTLE CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M; 8 HC; 9.30 S Euch, Oldroyd in D.

NEWPORT CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Ireland in C; 6.30 Ch E.

NORWICH CATHEDRAL: 7.30 MP; 8, 9.15 HC; 10.30 S Euch; 3.30 EP; 6 Christmas procession with carols.

PETERBOROUGH CATHEDRAL: 9.30 M; 10.30 Euch; 3.30 E, Aston in F.

PORTSMOUTH CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30 C, Mass of St Thomas (Thorne); 11 S Euch; 6.30 E, Stanford in G.

ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 M, Dyson in F; 10.30 S Euch, Darke in E; 3.15 E, 2nd Service (Gibbons).

SALISBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 Euch, Collegium Regale (Howells); 11.30 M; 3 Ch E, Watson in E.

SHEFFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 MP; 10.30 S Euch, Missa Brevis (Palestrina), 6.30 E & Carols.

SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL: 9 Euch; 11 Ch Euch, Missa Orbis factor (Plainsong); 3 EP; 6.30 Candlelight Lessons & Carols.

SOUTHWELL MINSTER: 7.45 Litany; 8 *HC; 9.30 C; 11 M, Dyson in F; 3.15 E.*

TRURO CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9 M; 10 S Euch; 6 E, Walmisley in D minor.

WAKEFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.15 C; 11 Solemn Euch, Mass for 4 voices (Byrd); 4 Service of 9 Lessons & Carols

WELLS CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 S Euch; 11.30 M; 3 E, Jackson in G.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY: 8 HC; 10 M; *11.15 Euch, Canon D Hutt; 3 E, 1st Service* (Morley); 5.45 Organ Recital.

WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL: 7, 8, 9 *Mass; 10.30 Sol Mass; 12 Mass; 2.45 Organ* Recital; 3.30 Carols; 5.30, 7 Mass.

WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 10 S *Euch, Mass for 4 voices (Byrd);* 3.30 E.

YORK MINSTER: 8, 8.45 HC; 10 S Euch, Mass in 5 parts (Byrd); 11.30 M; 2 Carol Service; 4 E, *Cantate Domino (Moore).*

ST ALBAN'S CATHEDRAL, Hertfordshire: 8 HC; 9.30 Euch; 11 M, Jackson in G; *12.15 HC; 6.30 E, Stanford in C.*

ST ASAPH CATHEDRAL, Denbighshire: 8 HC; 11 Ch Euch, Rorate caeli desuper (Byrd), *Canon J Evans;* 3.30 Ch E.

ST DAVIDS CATHEDRAL, Pembs: 8 HC; 9.30 Cymun Bendigaid; 11.15 Ch M, *Sumsion in B flat; 6 Ch E, Wood in E flat.*

ST EDMUNDSBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 S Euch, Jackson in G; 11.30 Ch M, Collegium Regale (Howells); 3.30 Ch E.

ST MACHAR'S CATHEDRAL, Old Aberdeen: 11 MS, Rev R Frazer; 6 ES.

ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL, Edinburgh: 8 Euch; 10.30 S Euch; 3.30 Ch E, Jesus Service (Mathias); 6.30 S Compline.

ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL, Glasgow: 8.30 Euch; 10 S Euch; 12 HC; 4.30 Candlelight service of 9 Lessons & Carols.

ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL, Dublin: 8.30 Euch; 11.15 S Euch, Sumsion in F; 3.15 Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols.

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 8.45 M; 11 S Euch, Missa Salve intemerata Virgo (Tallis); 3.15 E; 6.30 Organ Recital.

RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL, *SW7: 10.30 Divine Liturgy, Kievan* and traditional polyphony, Met Anthony.

ALL SAINTS, W1: 8 LM; 10.20 MP; 11 HM, *Mass for 5 voices (Byrd); 5.15 LM;* 6 E & B, Collegium Regale (Tavener).

ALL SOULS, W1: 8 C; 9.30, 11.30 MP, Rev R Trist; 6.30 Carol Service.

THE ASSUMPTION, W1: 11 MS, Western Wind Mass (Taverner).

CHELSEA OLD CHURCH, SW3: 8 HC; 10 Children's Service; 11 M, Rev Dr P Elvy; 12.15 HC; 6 Nine Lessons & Carols.

CROWN COURT CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, WC2: 11.15 MS, Rev S Hood; 6.30 ES, Rev J McMahon.

FARM STREET, W1: 8, 9.30 LM; 11 HM; 12.30 LM; 4.15, 6.15 LM.

HOLY TRINITY BROMPTON, SW7: 9 HC; 11 MS; 5, 7.30 Informal Service, Rev S *Millar.*

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, SW1: 6 Candlelight Traditional Service of Lessons & Carols.

THE ORATORY, SW7: 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 Mass, Missa Verba mea (Hassler); 12.30 Mass; 3.30 V & B; 4.30, 7 Mass.

ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH W8: 11 Holy Mass, Archbishop Y Gizirian.

WESLEY'S CHAPEL, EC2: 9.45 HC; 11 Family Worship & Christingle.

WESTMINSTER CENTRAL HALL *(Methodist): 11 Christmas Worship;* 6.30 Christingle & Carol Service.

ST ANNE AND ST AGNES (Lutheran), *Gresham St, EC2: 11 Ch Euch;* 7 Candlelight Christmas Concert/Bach Vespers.

ST BARTHOLOMEW THE GREAT, *EC1: 9 HC;* 11 Ch Euch; 6.30 Festival of 12 Lessons & Carols.

ST BRIDE'S, EC4: 11 Ch M, Oldroyd in D, *Canon J Oates;* 6.30 Ch E, Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols.

ST CLEMENT DANES, WC2: 11 St Christopher's Fellowship Carol Service.

ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, SW1: 11 Family Christmas Service; 5 Carol Service.

ST ETHELDREDA'S, EC1: 11 S Mass, Missa Ave Maria Stella (Victoria).

ST GEORGE'S, W1: *8.30 HC; 11 S Euch,* Missa In Honorem Sancti Dominici (Rubbra); 6 Service of 9 Lessons & Carols.

ST JAMES'S, W2: *10.30 S Euch,* Collegium Regale (Howells); 6 Carol Service.

ST JAMES'S, W1: 8.30 HC; 11 S Euch, Rev M Robins; 6 Carol Service.

ST JOHN'S, E15: 11 HC, Master Tallis's Testament (Howells); 6.30 Candlelight Carol Service, Fantasia in G (Bach).

ST LUKE'S, SW3: 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch, There is no rose (Joubert); 12.15 HC; 6.30 Service of Nine Lessons & Carols.

ST MARGARET'S, SW1: 11 S Euch, Missa Cantuariensis (Rubbra), Canon D Gray; 6.30 Lessons & Carols.

ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS, WC2: 8 HC; 9.45 Euch; 11.30 Visitors Service, Matin Responsory (Palestrina); 2.45 Chinese Service; *5 Ch E; 6.30 Healing ES.*

ST MARY ABBOTS CHURCH, W8: 8 HC; 9.30 Euch; 11.15 Ch M, Fr P Stubbs; *12.30 HC; 6.30 Carol Service.*

ST MARY'S, SW1: 9, 10 LM; 11 HM, Missa Ave Maria (Palestrina); 6 Sol E & B; 7 LM.

***ST MARYLEBONE**, NW1: 8 HC; 11 Ch* Euch, Missa O Magnum Mysterium (Victoria); 6.30 Candlelight Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols.

ST PAUL'S, SW1: 8, 9 HC; 11 Sol Euch, Messe Basse (Fauré), Rev N Dawson.

ST PETER'S, SW1: 8.15 HC; *10 Family* Euch; 11 S Euch, Mass for 5 voices (Byrd).

CHAPEL ROYAL OF ST PETER AD VINCULA, *HM Tower of London:* 9.15 HC; 11 Christmas Festival Service of Nine Lessons & Carols, Rev P R C Abram.

***CHAPEL ROYAL**, St James's Palace:* 8.30 HC; 11.15 MP, Rejoice in the Lord (Purcell).

GROSVENOR CHAPEL, South Audley St, W1: *11 S Euch, Concerto in B minor* (Walther), Rev S Hobbs.

QUEEN'S CHAPEL OF THE SAVOY, *WC2: 11 Chapel Carol Service.*

QUEEN'S FREE CHAPEL OF ST GEORGE, Windsor Castle: 8.30 HC; 10.45 *M & Sermon; 11.45 S Euch;* 5.15 E.

THE TEMPLE CHURCH, EC4: 8.30 HC; 11.15 MP, Fantasia in C minor (Bach).

GUARDS CHAPEL, Wellington Barracks, SW1: 11 M, Make a Joyful Noise (Gregson), Rev P Bosher. Band of the Grenadier Guards; 12 HC.

ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE CHAPEL, SE10: 11 S Euch, Sumsion in F, Rev R Nurton.

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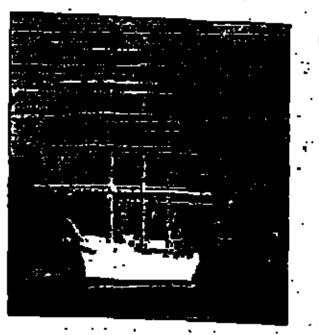

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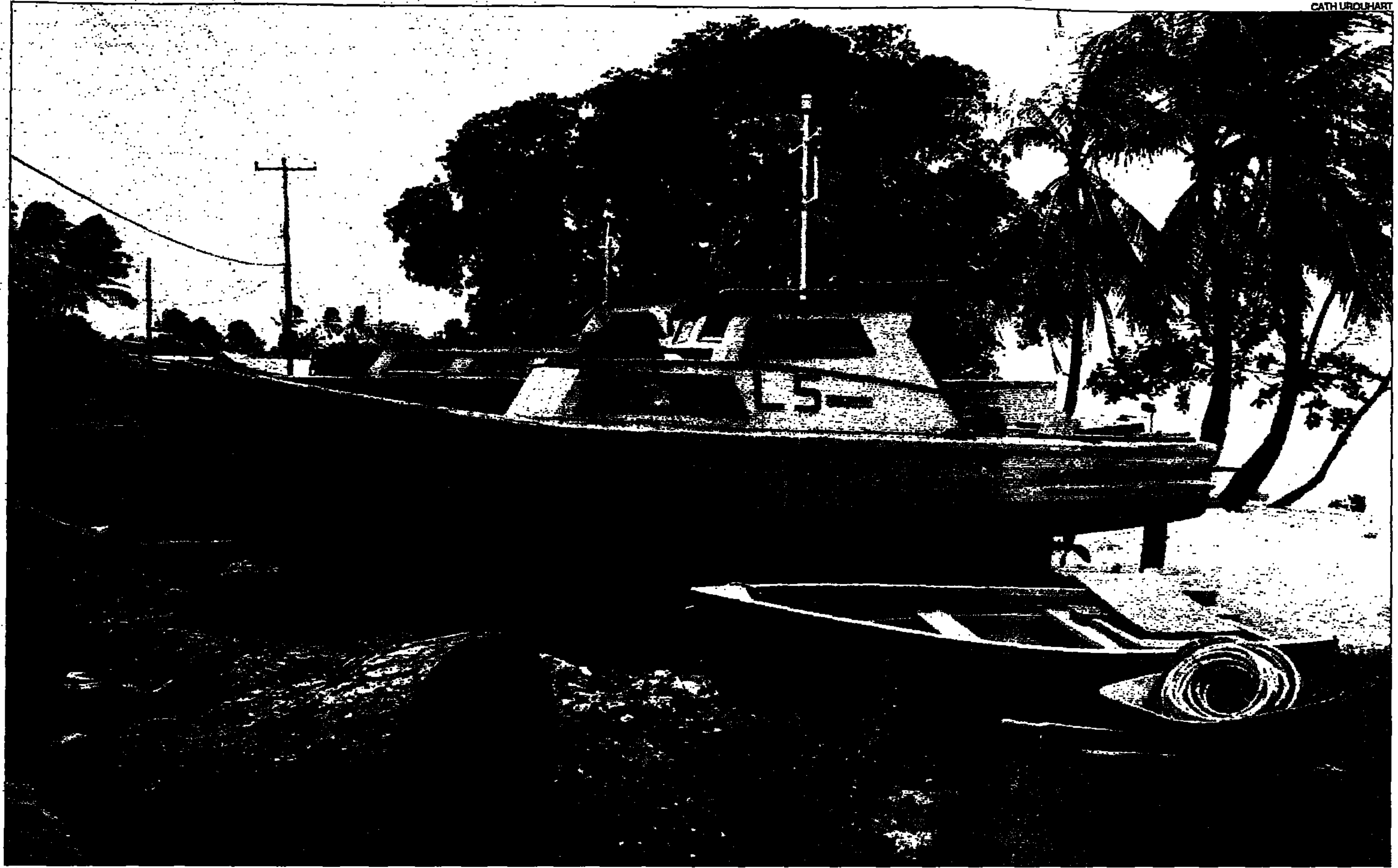
An island for richer and poorer

There's more to Barbados than celebrity-spotting at the smart hotels, says Times Travel Editor **Cath Urquhart**

CATH URQUHART



Speightstown is where the real Barbados is to be found, with its brightly painted, green and blue chattel houses and boats, and deserted streets — the residents are all in the local bar

As I got up to go to the breakfast buffet at the Sandy Lane Hotel, heads turned. I felt a dozen eyes on me as I dallied by the mountainous bowls of cereal, pondered the tropical fruits and hummed and haa-ed over the eggs.

Could it be that my fetching T-shirt (Marks & Spencer, £10) or Madras-print cotton trousers (Debenhams, £14.99) were exciting comment? Were the onlookers jealous of my orange mules (a market-stall bargain, but perhaps mistaken for Manolo Blahnik)?

No, I concluded, as I returned to my table with heaped plate and my fellow guests quickly looked away, disappointed. The Sandy Lane Hotel is usually chock-full of celebrities, but I was obviously neither Lottery winner, Spice Girl nor starlet.

With Concorde jetting in to Barbados more than 30 times this winter, it is hardly surprising that celebrity-spotting is a popular pastime. The island, 100 miles east of the main Caribbean chain, has always managed to draw the rich and famous — everyone from the Queen, Princess Margaret and Sir Winston Churchill to the Sangsters. Pavarotti and Naomi Campbell have graced its shores — and this year it has continued to grab the headlines.

Some of its regular visitors tut-tutted when Spice Girl Emma Bunton took a holiday here; the snobs became positively apoplectic after visits first from Mandy Allwood, who became pregnant with octuplets; then Lottery winner and former double-glazing salesman Mark Gardiner, who took friends on a £100,000 holiday to Sandy Lane.

This month Fenn Chapman, the 16-year-old Rugby schoolboy, escaped from his dorm to live on the island, citing it as the perfect getaway from the stresses of boarding-school life. And in spring the island will attract sporting celebrities and their fans when the England cricket team plays the West Indies here.

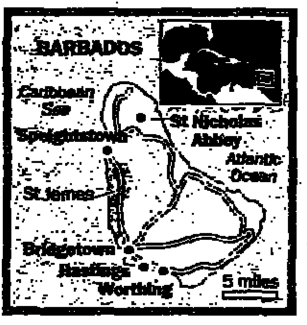
For those who want to see and be seen, Sandy Lane is the answer. Here, in winter, you are more than likely to bump into Nigel Dempster over the breakfast rolls, find Michael Winner on the next sunbed or trip over a television star sipping a cocktail in the open-air rotunda. But if, like me, you want to do more in Barbados than appear in your very own daytime soap opera, then hopping in a hired car and pottering about the island's maze of backroads and lanes is the answer.

I headed north on the narrow road that backs the St James coast, where the island's priciest hotels gently jostle for a share of its best beaches. Here on the west coast, the calm waters and picture-postcard sands are a stark contrast to the stormy, Atlantic-facing shores of the east.

It was not until I reached Speightstown that I found myself back in the real world. At least, it looked like a real Barbadian town: wooden chattel houses painted vivid greens and blues; an improbably large furniture store dominating the main road; an airy church, its west door flung open. But where were all the people?

In the bar, was where. The gloom of the Fisherman's Pub was misleading from outside: but inside the rap-calypso boomed out of the speakers and various hungover men sat around gloomily drinking Banks beer. It was 11am and Dick, the barman, had been on duty since 1.30 the previous afternoon. "I plan to stay up all day, and then go to the calypso competition in Bridgetown tonight, then recover next week," he grinned, pouring me a Banks. Given the stamina of those around me, it would have been insulting to refuse. I downed it on the terrace overlooking Speightstown's pier which, though tatty, would no doubt look like the one in the Bacardi advert after a few more drinks.

Well before I reached that stage, I headed inland and, more by luck than judgment, found my way to St Nicholas Abbey, a former plantation house and the oldest building on the island, dating from 1650. The current owner, Lt-Col Stephen Cave, was charming, opening up specially when I arrived after hours, and offering a brief tour to talk about his home to me and a couple of American tourists who had also happened by.

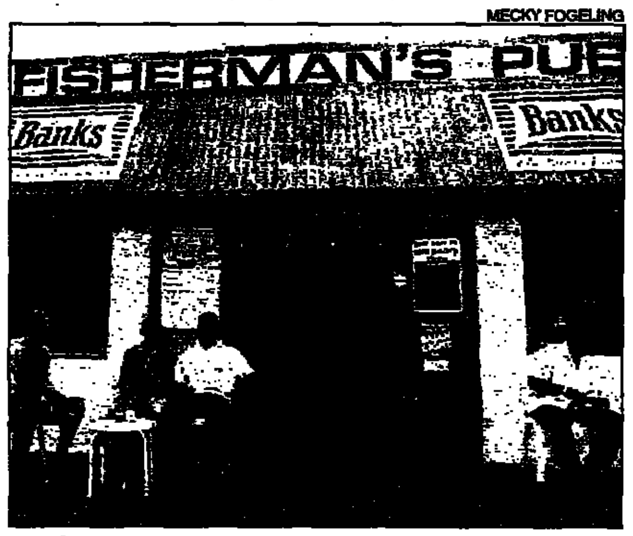


"I have no idea why it is so named, for it has never been an abbey," he confessed. He showed us a slice of old England that had been transported to the Caribbean by his ancestors: Wedgwood portrait medallions, a Coalport dinner service from 1810, a 1759 grandfather clock made by Thwaites and Reed of Croydon.

Then, more soberly, reminders of the island's slave past: Barbados's wealth came from sugar, and from the sweat of slaves such as Bosun and London, two men listed in an 1822 inventory of the plantation's assets. "The most valuable man was worth £165. 'Nanny' was worth nothing as she was obviously very old," said Lt-Col Cave.

He has come up with a fascinating way of reminding visitors of the island's past, for in 1980 he discovered ten reels of black and white cine film, shot by his father Lawrence in 1935. Recently he started showing them to visitors in a shed at the back of the house: enthralled, I watched white planters in pith helmets strolling around Bridgetown, drunken labourers staggering out of a bar, horse-drawn buggies trotting by, barrels of molasses being transported by wheelbarrow, everything slightly speeded up in the way of old films.

MECKY FOGELING



The Fisherman's Pub, Speightstown, rarely closes

There was also footage of St Nicholas Abbey. In his commentary, Lt-Col Cave explained how in the 1930s, small boys on the plantation had a great dare: the game was to grab one of the sails of the windmill as it rotated, change grip when it reached the top, and then jump off as it came back down. One false move, and you could die. Some dare.

Today the local boys dare themselves to surf the Atlantic waves of the east coast. I watched the huge breakers roll in from the terrace of the Kingsley Club, as I lunched on a local speciality, flying fish and creamed corn. "Sophisticated travellers like this," said the Kingsley Club's owner, Loris Arevian, casting an expansive hand around his charming, slightly weather-beaten blue-and-white veranda. "They have seen all the glitter they want. On the west coast you have marble rooms and expensive cafés, but who wants to pay hundreds of dollars for a bedroom? Here, life is not in the hotel, but outside."

Certainly his seven simple rooms, with their fans, cane furniture and wonderful ocean views for £40-£63 a night, are charming. But Mr Arevian is hoping to start work soon on a major redevelopment, adding 32 suites around the grounds, with a swimming pool being built on the site of the present accommodation. I could not help worrying that it would totally change the bohemian atmosphere of the place, although Mr Arevian hopes it will not.

As in much of the Caribbean, choosing the right hotel is important in Barbados because many holidaymakers rarely stray from the pool or nearest beach. Barbados is lucky to combine the luxury hotels of the west coast, the wildness of the east, and the reasonably priced resorts of the south, towns with names such as Worthing and Hastings — but with far better beaches than their English namesakes.

I holed up at the Coral Reef Club, a couple of miles north of Sandy Lane, and decidedly less flashy. It prides itself on its low-key, family atmosphere, and any celebrities that choose it certainly do not want their visit publicised. My days started with a two-minute stroll through the palm trees to the beach, a scrunch of sand between the toes, a splash of salt water, and then a date with some meaningful poached eggs, papaya fruit and coffee.

Complaints? An overenthusiastic maid who tried to break in as I was in the shower; and little on the menu for strict vegetarians, although fish-eaters are well looked after — the papardelle and scallops I tried one evening was divine.

Farther north still comes Cobblers Cove, another upmarket, discreet haven, where two-storey blocks of suites are dotted around the kidney-shape pool overlooking the sea. I dropped in for a Cobblers Cooler with manager Hamish Watson, who sets a wonderful challenge for anyone who can drink five of his legendary rum cocktails in one sitting. If you can walk around the edge of the swimming pool, without falling in, he will pay the bill for your holiday. It has never happened, although some have come close. Fortunately for Hamish, the record was not attempted by the English businessman in his eighties who spent three months at the hotel last year, paying £300 a night for his room.

The hotel scene in Barbados is shortly to be thrown out of kilter. At the end of April, the Coral Reef Club will close for six months for renovation, and Sandy Lane will close for an 18-month, £37.5 million refurbishment. There will be new rooms, tennis courts, swimming pool and spa, improvements to existing rooms and plenty of effort made to keep the staff out of sight: adding service tunnels, for example.

Certainly, it is time for a facelift — there is some decidedly 1970s decor, particularly in the screaming-pink restaurant upstairs; indeed, anyone planning a remake of *Charlie's Angels* or *The Saint* should send the location scouts out pronto. But what Sandy Lane's regulars will be pondering is where to go in the meantime.

"I don't think it will make much difference to us, as we have a different clientele," said Mr Watson. "I think they may perhaps consider Malliouhana or Cap Juluca on Anguilla, or the K Club on Barbuda."

Richard Williams, managing director of Sandy Lane, reckons his guests might try the villas on the estate surrounding the hotel, or perhaps Mustique, or even Bali or the Maldives. But will they return after such a lengthy closure?

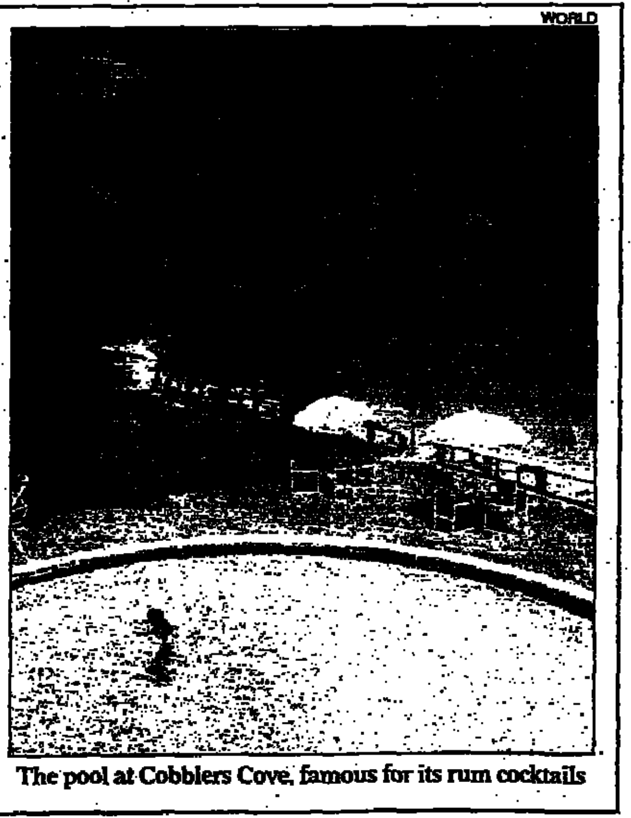
"I am confident that the magical location of Barbados, and the ability to get here on Concorde, will keep them coming," he said. "We will certainly be among the best small resorts in the world."

Well, I suppose he would say that — but I am willing to bet that when Sandy Lane reopens in 1999, there will be just as many famous faces, and as many furtive glances over the breakfast table, as ever.

BARBADOS FACT FILE

- Cath Urquhart travelled with Elegant Resorts (01244 897999), which in January offers seven nights' half-board at the Coral Reef Club from £2,035, seven nights' half-board at Cobblers Cove from £2,085, and seven nights' B&B at Sandy Lane from £2,360. All prices are per person, based on two sharing a room, and include return economy flights from Heathrow with British Airways (Club World supplements from £630 each way) and private limousine transfers.
- The same holidays with one flight on Concorde cost from £3,870 at Coral Reef, from £3,995 at Cobblers Cove and from £4,330 at Sandy Lane. I recommend taking Concorde on the return journey, because you end your holiday with a short, four-hour flight, and because the outbound Concorde flight gets you to the island before midday so you cannot check into your room immediately.
- Restaurant choice: The west coast hotels boast fine restaurants, and elsewhere the island is also now becoming known for good food. The Cliff (001 246 432 1922) has a stunning setting overlooking a west coast bay that is inaccessible except from the water: the restaurant is lit by huge wrought-iron flares. Crab and sweet pepper tart (£9) and fillet of red snapper (£17) were delicately cooked and beautifully presented. The Mews, Second Street, Holetown (432 1122) has marvellous seafood served on two floors or in a pretty courtyard.
- British passport holders do not need a visa for Barbados.
- Guidebook choice: *Barbados* (Insight Guides, £13.99) is good on island life and history.
- Further information: Barbados Tourism Authority (0171-636 9448).

WORLD



The pool at Cobblers Cove, famous for its rum cocktails

Concorde pilots at work: the plane cruises at 58,000ft — twice as high as most flights

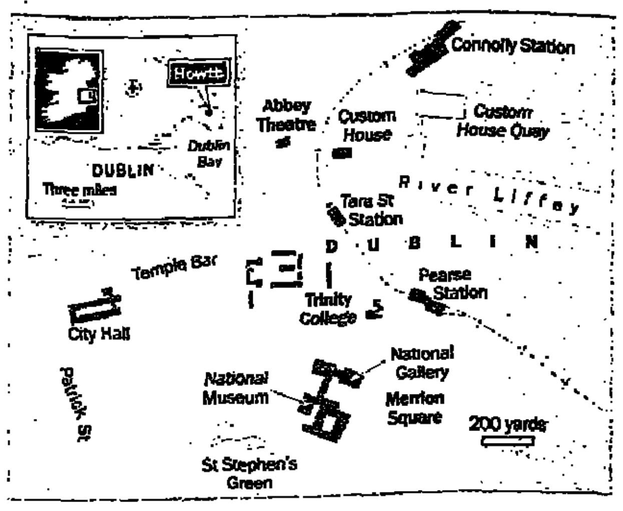
Supersonic — the only way to fly

"IT'S THE closest you will ever get to space travel," a well-heeled friend told me before I boarded Concorde for the flight from Barbados to Heathrow. He was right. At 58,000ft, peering out of one of Concorde's postcard-sized windows, I saw a breathtaking sight. Below us were clouds — *all* the clouds, even those stringy cirrus ones that are highest in the sky. Above the clouds was the horizon, a hazy white glow that gently curved, indicating the curvature of the Earth. Above us was the deep, deep blue of space. I was looking at the edge of the Earth.

Travel editors do not often have the chance to hop on to Concorde — honest — and this was my first supersonic flight. I was surprised by the tiny cabin — a narrow, single-aisle capsule with four seats to a row. In front of us was a display giving outside temperature (down to -62C), speed (up to 1,340mph, twice the speed of sound) and height (58,000ft is almost twice that reached on an ordinary flight). Funnily enough, the service was not as fancy as on some business and first-class sections of subsonic flights — no newspapers, television or free toiletries bag. There was also a distressing lack of recognisable celebrities on board, and although I thought I spotted a reggae star, the stewardesses kept diplomatically quiet.

Soon after dinner — caviare, king prawns, lobster, what you would expect, really — we reached Heathrow. The flight had taken just three hours, 44 minutes, and I disembarked feeling fresh as a daisy — albeit one that has developed a taste for fine wine.

CATH URQUHART



Old Dublin is looking younger

Edward Marriott dodges the stag-night parties to find the real *craic* in the buzzing Irish capital

In the centre of Dublin you can hear seagulls cry. And when Ireland's rugby team is playing at Lansdowne Road, the roar of the crowd is audible all over the capital.

This is a small city, accessible on foot. It is cultural, friendly, even cosy, and it is booming: the flights there are cheap, the planes are full, and last year 17 new hotels opened.

It is Dublin's pocket size that makes it the perfect weekend destination, as scores of rowdy stag-nighters have discovered to their delight. But do not let this discourage you: the city is generous enough to accommodate everyone, and varied enough to appeal to theatregoers, Guinness obsessives, literary groupies and hikers alike.

The sights are well-known — Trinity College, George Bernard Shaw's birthplace, the 8th-century AD illuminated *The Book of Kells*. But Dublin is also a living city, and deserves to be viewed as more than just a museum.

On our first morning, our party took the Dart railway train, along with many Dublin families, to the coast at Howth. Twenty-five minutes from the centre of the city, we were tramping gorse-and-heather cliffs, with a view across a beaten-metal sea, clear to Wales.

In undertaking this modest pilgrimage, it turned out, we were not only typical of the modern Irishmen and women, but of the Irish through the ages. For this is where Yeats, to escape the din of the city, used to take a seafront cottage, and Swift, two centuries earlier, holed up to write *Gulliver's Travels*.

Typical Georgian houses

Howth is still a working port, but now the trawlers are outnumbered by the yachts. Only one fisherman was visible that day, and he in gloomy, elegaic mood. "We do great things, us Irish, but always out of the country. Great Irishmen never stay here for long."

In a land of hardy clichès, this is one of the most resilient. It is also, as the fast-changing city centre proves, ceasing to be true. Into the heart of town, all along the River Liffey, Ireland's young professionals — people who might once have regarded Dublin as a backwater — are returning.

Georgian houses that remained derelict for years are being converted into apartments, and prices are not far removed from Edinburgh or London: £90,000 is not unusual for a two-bedroom flat.

There is even a new recruitment agency which specialises in persuading Irish professionals working abroad to come home: the top seven managers at The Merrion, Dublin's newest five-star hotel, which opened in October, were all lured back from overseas posts. They are typical: in the past two years more people have returned to Ireland than have left, a net gain of nearly 6,000.

This young, professional buzz to Dublin is best exemplified by Temple Bar, a cobbled, four-block drag just south of the Liffey that has been redeveloped to spectacular effect: previously a strip of decrepit Georgian townhouses, Temple Bar is now a bewilderingly busy pedestrianised hubbub of galleries, cafés and bars, nightclubs and buskers.

KATZ PICTURES

The thinking man's pint: Dublin's pubs are the perfect place to reflect on a changing city — and in many it is still possible to escape from the crowds

PICTURES

The area is also home to The Clarence hotel, owned by the Dublin businessman Harry Crosbie and two members of U2 — singer Bono and guitarist The Edge. In a sense, the classy elegance and understated cool of The Clarence are emblematic of the way Dublin is going.

Fifty rooms from £150 a night, a penthouse that costs £1,300 a night, and bars to which, after work, fashion designers, rock producers and theatre directors all come to drink. The penthouse, filled with simple, Shaker-style furniture, is booked at least three nights a week. Who, with such money, even ten years ago, would have chosen Dublin for the weekend?

From the roof of The Clarence, overlooking the Liffey, I counted 27 cranes. Such a boom, however, is not without cost: car sales have increased by 30 per cent a year since 1991, and this, in a city without a subway system, means frequent gridlock.

Dublin, moreover, has been accused of neglecting its heritage in favour of the easy buck of tourism and, certainly on the north side of the Liffey, away from the tour buses, architectural neglect, drug abuse and violence are rife.

Flowers brighten the scene in busy Grafton Street

Unemployment, in some pockets, is as high as 30 per cent. It is on the dark housing estates that taxi drivers are frequently held up — not at gunpoint, but with blood-filled syringes. Last year there were more than 2,200 reported syringe attacks in the capital, an average of six a day.

Visitors should be aware, but not discouraged: the closest you are likely to come to such experiences on the average weekend is hearing stories from your taxi driver, as we did. To be fair to Dublin, such tales could apply to any European capital.

Where Dublin gains over its rivals is that here, unlike elsewhere, it is still possible to escape the crowds. In bars such as Ryans, which looks across the Liffey to the Guinness brewery, you could be in rural Co Galway, not in the heart of an otherwise busy city. We retreated here from a squall one lunchtime and ate lamb stew and vegetable soup and drank Guinness in our own "snug", a partition secure from the rest of the pub. "Where you comin' from?" asked the barman, dressed in the same black-and-white livery waiters which have worn here since 1905. "London", I replied. "Poor you," he answered, with genuine pity. "Where the Guinness is warm and fizzy."

That evening, unable to find a seat in any Temple Bar pubs, we pushed west up the Liffey to O'Shea's Merchant, one of Dublin's more traditional bars. This, too, was packed, but with a different crowd: families from the suburbs, young musicians, all come to hear live folk music.

O'Shea's is divided in two, and you can either hear a full band, or a smaller, more intimate two-hander. We had intended to try both, but got stuck in the latter. Here, the conversation flowed effortlessly from one group to the next.

At the end of the night, we put our heads round next-door. "Come in, don't be shy," someone shouted from the back. "These guys are really good, you know." And so we did, and so they were.

After all this, there remain the museums, the galleries, and the city's cultural life, not least the Abbey Theatre, which regularly launches new work by Ireland's playwrights.

A day or so, too, could easily be spent wandering the Georgian squares. In Merrion Square, perhaps the finest of all, almost every building has a plaque commemorating the famous — poets, sculptors or political activists, as well as a late-vintage W.B. Yeats and a senator, all of whom had houses here.

Samuel Johnson, who had a put down for almost everything, judged Dublin, in 1791, to be "a place much worse than London". Should he be looking down on the city 200 years later, he might just be persuaded to change his mind.

DUBLIN: TRAVELLERS' FACT FILE

■ Edward Marriott travelled with Aer Lingus (0645 737747), whose fares from Heathrow start at £92. British Airways (0345 222111) fares start at £89 from Gatwick. Ryanair (0541 569569) fares start at £69 from Stansted, Luton, Manchester, Liverpool, Leeds, Bristol, Cardiff, Prestwick and Bournemouth: £79 from Gatwick. All prices include taxes: a Saturday night stay must be included.

■ Taxi fares are not far off London prices. From the airport to centre of Dublin costs IRL£15 (£13), including a 10 per cent tip.

■ Edward Marriott stayed at The Merrion hotel, Upper Merrion Street (reservations 0800 181535, website *www.merrionhotel.ie*), which opened in October and is the newest five-star hotel in the city. It has been created from four Grade I listed Georgian townhouses and backs on to two private, landscaped 18th-century gardens, to which guests have access. The 145 rooms and suites have been designed in sympathy with the original Georgian architecture. Until January 17, a double room costs from £126 B&B; thereafter from £189 a night, room only.

■ Tour operators: British Airways Holidays (01293 723100) has two-night breaks at the Stakis Hotel starting at £185pp, including flights and transfers. Travelscene (0181-427 4445) has two nights at the Mount Herbert hotel starting at £165, including flights and breakfast. Crystal (01235 824324) starts at £149 for two nights at the Castle Hotel, including flights and breakfast, and Time Off (0990 846363) offers two nights guest-house accommodation, with breakfast, from £167.

■ Bars: Ryans Pub & Restaurant (677 6097), 28 Parkgate Street: lunch costs £5-£10, five-course dinner, £20. O'Shea's Merchant (679 6793), 12 Lower Bridge Street. Oliver St John Gogarty (671 1179), Temple Bar.

■ Culture: Irish Writers Museum (872 2077), 19 Parnell Square. National Museum of Ireland (677 7444), Kildare Street and Merrion Street. National Gallery of Ireland (661 5133), Merrion Square.

■ Reading: *Dublin*, (Lonely Planet, £6.99) is the best guide. *Dubliners*, by James Joyce (Penguin Classics; £4.99). *James Joyce Reader* (Penguin Classics, £7.99). All Roddy Doyle's novels — *The Commitments, The Van, Paddy Clarke Ha Ha Ha, The Snapper* — are set in and around Dublin and published by Minerva at £5.99.

■ Further information: Irish Tourist Board (0171-493 3201).

A bathroom at The Merrion, with a view of Parliament

WORD-WATCHING ANSWERS

Answers from page 22

KANKEDORT
(c) Kankedort means a state of suspense, a critical position, an awkward affair.

MUINEIRA
(c) Muineira is a type of Spanish dance and song that is performed in six-in-a-measure time. It is popular in Galicia and is also known as the Gallegada.

VIOLON D'INGRES
(a) Violon d'Ingres is an occasional pastime. It is also an activity other than that for which one is well known or at which one excels. For example, the artist Ingres took time off from his paints to fiddle.

LIMBATION
(a) The formation of a border. Also a border distinguished by colour or structure.

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هكذا من الأصل

Swedes bitten by the culture bug

Tony Kelly explores Stockholm as it gears up to be the European Cultural Capital of 1998

A glorious display of cultural fireworks will burst over the Swedish capital on New Year's Eve — Japanese dancers, festivals of tango and new European film, the Bolshoi Ballet performing Glazunov, the Berlin Philharmonic playing Verdi. All are lined up to help Stockholm celebrate its turn under the spotlight as the 1998 Cultural Capital of Europe.

The five-storey Kulturhuset on Stockholm's Sergels Torg will be turned into a giant dance palace for the last night of the year. By January 18, when the official opening takes place, the city's central meeting point, the Kungsträdgården, will have been transformed into an ice cathedral.

Later in the year there will be art in shop windows and photography on the Metro, festivals of percussion, juggling and chamber music, children's architecture, a puppet festival, and the European fire sculpture championships.

Previous Cultural Capitals, such as Glasgow in 1990 and Thessaloniki this year, used the opportunity to make a showcase of their national and regional culture, but Stockholm seems to be denying there is any such thing (a recent edition of *Stockholm '98*, entitled *What is Swedish Culture?*, also failed to supply many answers).

Admittedly, the cultural year programme does include a Strindberg festival and seven new Swedish operas, along with a heavy concentration on Swedish design. But a glance through the festival listings reinforces the impression that the world will be coming to Sweden, rather than Sweden showing itself off to the world.

A new Modern Art Museum, designed by the Spanish architect Rafael Moneo, and blasted out of the granite on the island of Skeppsholmen, will open in February. The museum's British director, David Elliott, has put together an opening exhibition featuring Damien Hirst, Rachel Whiteread and Francis Bacon. Later in the year, there will be a substantial Joan Miró retrospective. Not many Swedish names there.

It is all rather like last week's jamboree in the City Hall, when the world's great and good gathered for the Nobel prize-winners' banquet in a 1920s building modelled on a Venetian palazzo.

Stockholm is so good at absorbing outside cultural influences, you wonder whether it has a cultural life of its own. The answer, of course, is yes: Stockholm has more museums, theatres and art galleries than just about any city of comparable size. But how much of what they put on is particularly Swedish? Perhaps it is unfair to ask.

"The history of our culture is multinational," says Jan Sandquist, who, when he is not acting as press officer for Stockholm '98, plays tuba in a Dixieland jazz band. "If you have a small population and a language that nobody else speaks, you have to cross borders and adapt.

"Of course, the purpose of the Cultural Capital year is to promote your own culture: if you want to listen to Pavarotti, you can do it anywhere," he adds, pointing out that 60 per cent of the 1,000-plus events will be entirely "Swedish".

Just as important, Mr Sandquist says, is to create an atmosphere in which art can flourish and new audiences are drawn in. The excitement generated by the Cultural Capital has made public spending on the arts respectable, even fashionable, he adds.

"Stockholm is not really a city, just a very big small town," says Mats Widbom, an architect who is co-ordinating the year's design events. "There are few high-rise buildings and everything is done on a human scale."

In fact, at times, Stockholm feels more like a succession of villages. The city is built on water — or rather on 14 islands, each with its own personality. Most visitors head for Gamla Stan (Old Town), a maze of medieval buildings and cobbled streets around the cathedral. They also wander around neighbouring Skeppsholmen on a crisp morning, as the sun shines through the trees, reflecting the houses of Gamla Stan across the water. It is hard to believe you are only a mile from the city centre.

Bridges and Metro links mean you never have to take a ferry these days, but you cannot escape the city's connections with the water. Outside the royal palace, where the Baltic meets Lake Mälaren, locals fish for salmon. Boats depart the city centre for Helsinki and for the islands of the archipelago, where every other Stockholmer seems to have a summer house.

I boarded a boat for Drottningholm, King Carl Gustaf's residence, seven miles west of the city. I tucked into raw herrings and schnapps as the boat glided through the suburbs, passing wooden houses by the water's edge and islands glowing with russet and gold. Once at the palace, I headed for the Royal Court Theatre, built in 1766 and still using its original stage machinery. The candles which once lit the stage have been replaced by ingeniously flickering electric lights.

With the strength of the pound, Sweden is surprisingly affordable. Fly from Stansted to the renamed Stockholm South (Skavsta) airport, 60 miles out of town, and you can pay only £99 return. Stay in a B&B and you can have a city-centre room, with a breakfast of ham, eggs and cheese, for under £30. My hosts, Lars and Ingrid Söderstrom, had a flat on Olof Palme Street, yards from where the former prime minister was murdered in 1986. A short walk took me to his grave at Adolf Fredriks church.

Restaurants across the city serve a *dagens rätt* at lunchtime — a daily special with bread, salad and coffee, usually for less than £5. Or you can put together a feast from the Östermalm food hall, where reindeer hearts and sides of salmon are found, along with pheasant burgers and cakes of goats' cheese.

Things only start to get expensive when you go out at night. The arty crowd head for the southern island of Södermalm, to restaurants such as Hannas Krog, where Swedish meets Jamaican and Japanese influences. The young, hip and beautiful can be found across the water on Stureplan, at places such as the O Bar, a favourite haunt of Crown Princess Victoria and her friends, or at the Café Opera, in a wing of the 19th-century Opera House, all frescoes and gilded mirrors by day, then, after midnight, a crowded disco with Euro-pop on the turntable and vodka bottles hanging down from steel chandeliers.

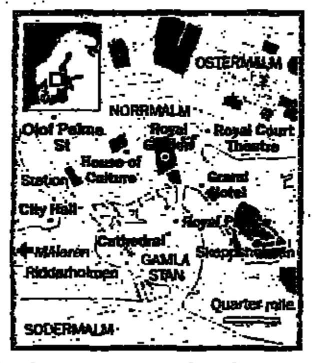
Just before leaving Stockholm I returned to the Café Opera for the afternoon pastry buffet. Elderly women fingered their strudels and trifled with trifles between sips of tea. There were custard tarts, cherry meringue and chocolate-covered strawberries, and you can eat as much as you like for Kr75 (£6.25).

Another *petit four*? You might as well. At £99 for the return flight, don't expect to get a meal on the plane home.

TONY STONE

The Swedish capital is built on 14 islands and, although bridges and Metro links mean you never have to take a ferry, you cannot escape the city's connections with the water

DIARY OF EVENTS IN THE CAPITAL OF CULTURE '98



Jan 18-Feb 18: Ice Cathedral, Kungsträdgården — exhibition on the theme of snow and ice sculpture.

Feb 6: Sami (Lapp) National Day: Lapp banquet followed by a concert of flamenco and *joik* chanting.

Feb 14: opening of Modern Art Museum and Museum of Architecture.

Mar 14: Mahler Marathon — 18 pianists play all Mahler's symphonies.

May 1: Berlin Philharmonic, Vasa Museum — Verdi and Beethoven performed in front of the 17th-century man-of-war *Vasa*, a 62m-long ship which sank on launching in 1628 and was raised in 1961.

May 9-Aug 30: Miró exhibition, Modern Art Museum.

May 23-Aug 30: Maritime Culture '98; a celebration of Sweden's maritime history on the island of Djurgården.

May 30-Jun 7: Tango Festival, with artists from Uruguay, Argentina and Sweden.

Jun 8-Sept 1: Gluck season, Drottningholm Court Theatre — *Orpheus and Eurydice*, *Alceste*, *Paris and Helena* (stage concert performance) and the ballet *Don Juan*.

Aug 6-12: Peter Brook directs the opera *Don Giovanni*.

Aug 22-Sept 12: Strindberg Festival — plays by Sweden's greatest dramatist at the Strindberg Theatre and Stockholm Cathedral.

Sept: *Under/Exposed* — photography takes the place of advertisements on the Metro for a month.

Oct 7-17: *Poetry Olympics* — poetry reading competition, judged by the audience.

Oct 24-Nov 25: *Princess and the Moon* — a new children's opera by Jonas Forssell.

Nov 3-8: Electronic music festival.

Nov 25-28: European Fire Sculpture Championships.

● *For a free 307-page brochure detailing the entire programme for the Cultural Capital Year '98, call 01476 578811.*

FACT FILE

■ *Tony Kelly travelled with the Swedish Travel and Tourism Council (0171-724 5868). He flew with Ryanair (0541 569569), which flies twice daily from Stansted to Stockholm South for £99 return, plus £10 departure tax. A bus into town costs 120 kroner (£10) return.* British Airways (0345 222111) flies from Heathrow and Gatwick: Finnair (0171-408 1222) and SAS (0171-734 4020) from London and Manchester. Prices start at £205 return. All fly to the main Stockholm airport, Arlanda, 30 miles north of Stockholm. Taxis cost £25.

■ Where to stay: for style on the waterfront, it has to be the Grand Hotel (00 468 679 3500). B&B prices start at £109 per double room at weekends; £192 on weekdays. Near here is *af Chapman*, an English square-rigged ship now used as a youth hostel (679 5015), beds from £10. For B&B, contact B&B Stockholm (660 5565), from £18 per person.

■ Tour operators: City Escapades (0181-563 8959) has four-night breaks to Stockholm until December 31. Prices start at £305, flying from Gatwick with BA and based on two sharing, with children going free. Prices start at £311 January-March. Norvista (0171-409 7334) offers two nights in the four-star Scandic Hotel Continental for £248, flying from Gatwick with Finnair and based on two sharing. Valid until the end of April.

■ When to go: winters are long and cold, so unless you are going for the Cultural Capital activities the best time is May to October.

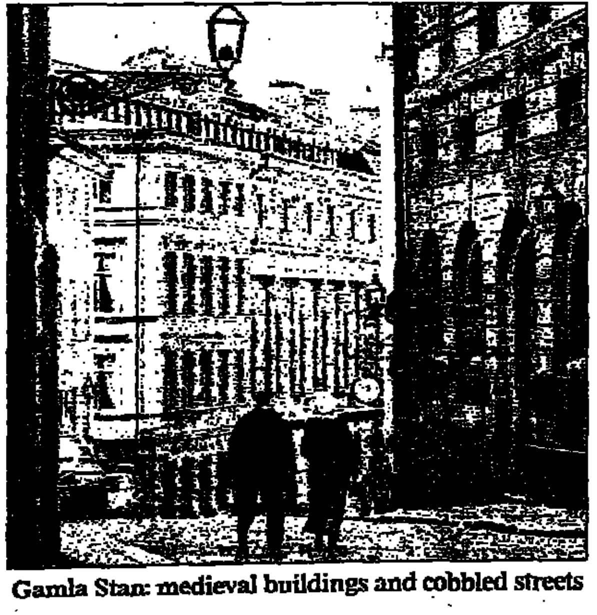
■ Getting around: the Stockholm Card (from tourist offices) costs Kr185 (£15) for 24 hours, Kr350 for 48. It gives free entry to museums and unlimited use of public transport for one adult and two children.

■ Museum choice: Music Museum, Sibyllegatan 2, open 11am-4pm daily (except Mon). Vasa Museum, Djurgården, open 9.30am-7pm daily in summer, 10am-5pm in winter.

■ Restaurant choice: Hannas Krog, Skanegatan 80 (643 8225), young and trendy; main dishes about £10-£15. Hermitage, Stora Nygatan 11 (411 9500), vegetarian café in the old town, popular at lunchtime, generous daily menu £5.

■ *Guidebook choice: Sweden: The Rough Guide* (£10.99).

IMPACT



Gamla Stan: medieval buildings and cobbled streets

PACK YOUR BAGS

☐ IT IS still possible to spend Christmas with the Angels: The Angel Hotel (01730 812421) at Midhurst in Sussex is offering a three-night package for £347.50 per person, based on two sharing. The price includes breakfast, champagne reception and dinner on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day drinks and lunch, Boxing Day lunch, reception and dinner.

☐ A TRADITIONAL Christmas is on offer at the Rookery Hall Hotel (01270 610016), Chester, from Tuesday. Celebrations include welcome tea and cocktails, candlelit dinners, transport to midnight Mass, Christmas feast, horse and carriage ride on Boxing Day and afternoon classes for the Victorian gala dinner dance. Three nights from £355 per person.

☐ PULL MORE than just a cracker this Yuletide: Solo's Holidays (0181-951 2800) is offering a special Christmas break for singles aged between 30 and 50. From Tuesday, three nights' half-board at the Swallow Royal Hotel, Bath, is from £395 per person, including a cabaret dinner dance and visit to the city.

☐ HELPFUL Holidays, which specialises in self-catering in the West Country, still has a selection of large country properties — some sleeping up to eight people — available over Christmas. One, at St Cleer, near Liskeard, with an indoor swimming pool, costs £1,175 for a week. Details on 01647 433593.

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Notes

- mw-midweek; we-weekend.
- *Prices shown in the left-hand column are the lowest published excursion fares.* Prices shown in the right-hand column are the lowest available flexible fares which do not require a Saturday night stay and which, in many cases, allow changes or cancellation without penalty. In all cases you are advised to check the restrictions, if any, when booking.
- *Availability is not guaranteed.*
- Fares shown do not include any applicable taxes or security fees.

☐ START your new year's resolutions in a far-off land. discoveryinitiatives (0171-229 9881) still has availability on its 14-night trip to Vietnam. Led by expert guides, visiting temples, beaches and national parks and staying in local guest houses, the trip costs £975 per person, and flights cost from £545 per person. Departs January 2.

☐ KUMUKA (0171-937 8855) has reduced its Zimbabwe-Botswana safari from £645 to £595 per person. Departing from Harare on January 4, the 14-day trip includes horseback and walking safaris, visits to the Okavango Delta and ends at Victoria Falls. The price includes all transport, meals and accommodation but not flights. Air Zimbabwe (0171-491 0009) has a return flight from Heathrow to Harare, including internal flight from Victoria Falls to Harare, for £594 (plus £20 tax).

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visiting St. Catherine's Monastery and the Rose Red City of Petra

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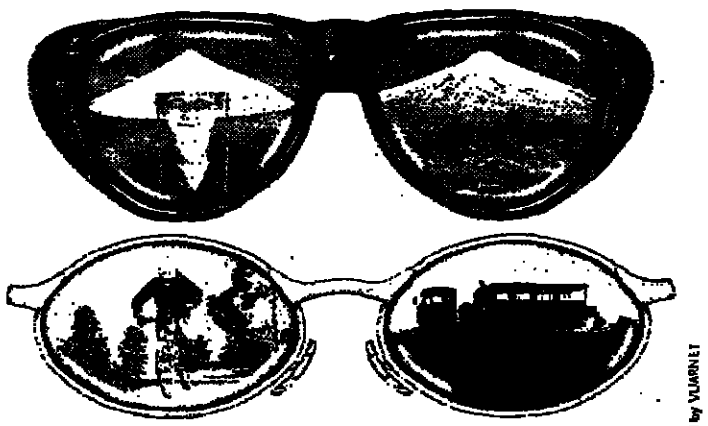

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SKISHOOT/OFFSHOOT

In Whistler/Blackcomb, in Canada, major runs were open last week and there was off-piste skiing — mainly around rocks and tree stumps. El Niño could improve matters

The perils of snowbusiness

America is praying for El Niño – the weather phenomenon which is likely to bring snow and glorious skiing. **Graham Duffill** reports

El Niño usually brings extra snow to Breckenridge, Colorado. In 1982 it brought 778 inches to a Californian resort

On the message board at the base of the River Run gondola at Keystone, Colorado, some wag has written: "El Niño, where are you?" It is not yet a plea from the heart — North America already has enough snow to get its season under way — but one that could soon echo around the Rockies.

El Niño (The Boy) is the name given to the weather phenomenon caused by the *unusual warming* of the eastern Pacific Ocean. One of its effects can be huge snowfalls *over the southern part of the* Rockies from now until March. However, it can also change the jet stream pattern that normally comes from the north, giving the northern states of America and Canada a snow famine and warmer winters.

The last big El Niño winter was 1982/83, when lift towers were buried and 788 inches of snow was recorded on Carson Pass near Kirkwood, California. Based on rainfall so far this time round, some meterologists are predicting that this El Niño could be as strong, but most agree it will affect the ski season.

The ski resorts that may benefit are Taos in New Mexico, and *Telluride, Purgatory* and possibly Aspen in southern Colorado. If the storms push further north, Breckenridge, Vail and Steamboat Springs will receive a few extra feet. Lake Tahoe, Heavenly Valley and Mammoth in northern California are on the edge, but have so far received only two major snowfalls.

What North America cannot escape is that there has been significantly less snow at the start of this season than the last two, which were exceptionally good.

In Whistler/Blackcomb on the west coast of Canada, most major runs were open last week. With a new snowfall, off-piste skiing was possible, although it was an adventurous trip around rocks and tree stumps.

Unlike Europe, where warm weather can blight the Alps, temperatures in North America are generally low enough from November to allow intensive snow-making. The machines at Whistler and Blackcomb mountains, which together form the largest ski area in North America and share one lift-pass for the first time this winter, have been blowing day and night.

The top runs are well covered, but the final descent to the base on the bottom third of the mountain is still rocky and treacherous. Lake Louise and Banff are in a similar condition — good enough for piste skiers to enjoy the slopes, but not a vintage year so far.

El Niño's warming effects may also have begun, as the *days have been as warm as* zero centigrade on the top of the mountain and minus five *at night.*

In Breckenridge, Colorado, the most popular destination for British skiers in America, all major runs are open and flawlessly created, thanks to creative piste making and tonnes of man-made snow.

James Shingles, who runs three chalets for British skiers in Breckenridge, said: "The good thing about this place is that, even if you get grumpy guests for whom nothing is *right, they can always ski* and are happy with it."

Officially, Colorado's snow*fall is average for this time of* the year, with 38 inches at the top at Breckenridge and 28 at the bottom. Off-piste skiing is just about possible but requires care to avoid rocks.

Bill Jensen, who runs the resort, thinks the El Niño phenomenon could be overhyped. "Ignore it and go where you want to go would be my advice," he said.

Breckenridge, currently flavour of the month among British skiers

High life at high altitude

Chalet holidays are catching on across the Atlantic

THE chalet holiday, that peculiarly British house party on the ski slopes, is so durable that not only is there barely an Alpine valley without chalets, but North America is increasingly being asked to adapt to their charms.

Canadians have yet to make their minds up about chalet culture, and residents of Whistler, in British Columbia, are considering a referendum on whether to allow them.

However, on Blueberry Hill, a strip of million-dollar homes facing Whistler Mountain, a couple have leased their opulent home to the oldest established North American tour operator, Ski the American Dream, this winter.

Heron Chalet, with its chef Jean-Louis Maltais, offers true millionaire living, including a chauffeured minibus to and from the ski slopes each day. What no one is yet sure about is what the neighbours in this quiet road will make of having a British chalet party in their midst — especially when the two hot-tubs are bubbling on the balcony.

Alan Reed, who founded Ski the American Dream 20 years ago, said: "Our average client spends £1,100 on a ten or 11-night holiday and we reckon they get better value for money in North America than anywhere else."

Operators such as American Dream are now confident that there *is enough British interest in North* America for them to risk leasing a property and hiring staff for the entire season.

As the biggest skiing area in North America, with two mountains each with a 5,000ft vertical drop skiable under one ticket, Whistler and Blackcomb are difficult to beat. The only major drawback is that lifts close at 3pm in the early season and 3.30pm later.

When it is light until 8pm, it is deeply frustrating to know you have time for only two runs after lunch, but Canada is heavily unionised, and *to run the resort until 5pm would* require two shifts of workers. Committed skiers would be happier in America, where lifts operate on times similar to European resorts.

In Breckenridge, the American mecca for British skiers, American Dream sells the services of two enterprising Brits who lease three luxury chalets. James Shingles, 27, a BASI qualified ski instructor, and ex-Navy engineer Paul Quigley, 33, hire American chefs to cook for clients in their neighbouring chalets, Broken Lance Lodge and Kokopelli Lodge.

The standard, especially of cooking, is high. The location is just a bit too far out of town to be convenient, but James and Paul will make one run down the slopes in the mini-bus in the morning and pick up skiers at the end of the day.

Each week they will also take clients for a day's skiing in Keystone, 40 minutes' drive away, or Vail and Beaver Creek, 45 minutes away. With Arapahoe Basin making a fifth resort, America's best skiing is available within an hour of Breckenridge.

GRAHAM DUFFILL

FACT FILE

- *Graham Duffill travelled to Whistler and Breckenridge with Ski the American Dream (0181-552 1201). In January it offers Heron Chalet in Whistler from £709 per week, £945 for two weeks, including direct scheduled flights to Vancouver. Graham Duffill flew with Canadian Airlines (0345 616767).*
- *Ski the American Dream's luxury chalets in Breckenridge are available for a week in January from £715 (Broken Lance Lodge and Kokopelli) and from £689 (Chalet Snowshoe), including scheduled flights.*

GILL ALLEN

The ski train is convenient if you live in the south

Eurostar to the slopes

Chris Gill takes the train and reaches the Alps in eight hours

RAIL travel was one of the foundation stones of the ski holiday business. And with the launch of Eurostar's weekly service from Waterloo to the heart of the French Alps, rail enthusiasts may like to think that it is also going to form the basis of *our winter holidays in the* future.

When the oil runs out, I guess it will. *Until then, its* appeal may be rather specialised.

The service leaves Waterloo at 8.57am on Saturdays and takes 7hr 44min to reach Moûtiers (for Courchevel and Méribel), and a further 45 minutes to reach Bourg-St-Maurice (for Les Arcs and Val d'Isère). The return service leaves the Alps on Saturday mornings, arriving back in Waterloo in the afternoon.

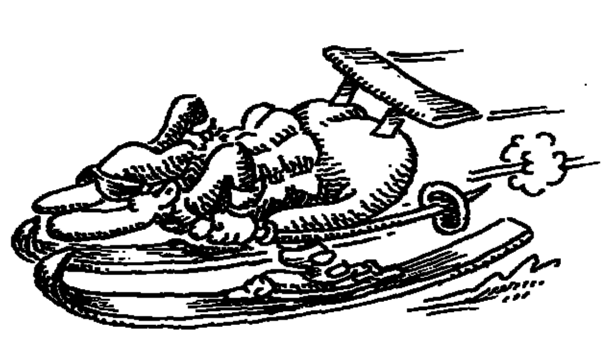
Passengers aboard last Saturday's inaugural trip who lived in south London, or near Ashford in Kent, where the train stops, told me they welcomed the service and found it particularly *convenient. In the buffet car,* lubricated by a can or two of Stella Artois at £1.85 each, *Gareth Silcox of Barnes,* south west London, summed up the reactions of his fellow travellers with admirable clarity: "Excellent apart from the catering." He was as unimpressed by the fast food from the buffet car as I was with the curried chicken in first class.

Other passengers had come from the north of *England, finding it easier to* reach Waterloo than Gatwick or Heathrow. But for *many others, travel on a* midday flight or by car remains more convenient.

Despite its top speed of over 180mph, the train is not particularly quick once it leaves the special TGV line east of Lyon, and its progress beyond Chambery is positively snail-like. Besides the eight or so hours on the train, you have to add the transfer to your resort — a short distance but often subject to delays. At least you can check in at Waterloo as little as 20 minutes before departure.

IF YOU are tempted to use the service, pack sandwiches. And book early: one or two high season departures (including next Saturday's) are full or nearly so, *and the cheaper, non-*changeable Ski Saver tickets (standard class £149/first class £229, reduced to £129/£199 for most of January) are "subject to availability" so may be hard to come by. Full fares are £199/£299. Bookings: 0990 186186.

IN THE KNOW ON THE SNOW



With skiers gearing up for the first holiday of the season, it is time to get up to speed on this winter's techniques and terminology, *writes Doug Sager.*

Simply being seen on skis, for example, as opposed to a snowboard, immediately dates one as being born in the 1960s or even earlier.

Couloir cowboys who like to refer to themselves as "extreme" skiers should note that this term has been officially retired. Last summer the world's top daredevils and stunt skiers formed a new group, the International Free *Skiers' Association, heaping* scorn on the word "extreme" and declaring themselves "free" skiers.

"Free" skiers, so it goes, imaginatively express themselves with flashy jumps and stylish tricks, while "extreme" skiers merely bomb down very steep slopes.

Skiers with any pretence to off-piste cred this *season will need to* equip themselves with a specially designed rucksack, with *pockets for avalanche probe,* shovel and first-aid kit. An avalanche transceiver is both common sense and essential for your image.

Crucial in distinguishing *the proficient off-piste skier* from the on-piste punter, is never inserting hands in pole straps. Off-piste skiers must be ready to discard both poles at the first sign of avalanche, or risk being pulled under the snow by the poles.

In fireside après-ski conversation, fierce debates concerning skiing technique will arise. There is no point in arguing with those who admire a position where both feet are clamped together. *They are "non-skiers" — stuck* in the 1960s when keeping feet tightly together was the in thing — and are unlikely to alter their opinions.

Purists will also pugnaciously assert the proposition that fat powder skis have taken all the effort and sorely obtained skill out of deep snow skiing. *Do not demur,* but be sure to reserve a pair for the first powder storm.

On *the extreme edge of* skiing fashion, just making its way into the Alps from Alaska, is a fusion technique born of snowboarding and the new narrow-waisted carving skis. This style, to be featured in next year's videos, rejects tight "S" turns for wide arcs that use up as much terrain as possible. Talk it up, but don't try it without some experience on carving skis first.

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AROUND THE WORLD A WEEKEND GUIDE

JILL CRAWSHAW'S TRAVEL TIPS

The hidden Highlands

THE Inn-to-Inn hiking trip by Naturetrek (01962 733051) from *Inverness to Skye* aims to explore parts of the Highlands that few visitors ever reach. There will be a chance to see red deer, grey seals, golden eagles and otters. Other highlights will include walking the ancient rights-of-way to Glen Moriston and Arnisdale, Thomas Telford's early 19th-century tow-path along the Caledonian Canal, hiking in the shadow of Ben Sgriol, and a boat trip to Loch Coruisk.

The nine-day tour, starting May 30, covers about 13 miles of walking a day. The cost is £795 for accommodation and guiding.

SPANISH Harbour Holidays (0117-986 0777) has added some lesser-known fishing villages and country properties to its collection of small northern Costa Brava resorts. Riudabella is the wing of a Spanish castle, dating back to 1132, near the village and 12th-century Cistercian monastery of Poblet. This bit of the castle has been converted into an apartment for six and the old water reservoir has become a spring-fed swimming pool. It costs from £495 to hire for a week.

On the coast south of Barcelona, the firm also offers self-catering holidays in the fishing village of Altafulla. A villa for eight costs £675 a week per party; prices exclude flights and car hire.

Magic carpets

FORGET the museums and palaces of most guided tours: Steppes East (01285 810267) can take you to a gold embroidery factory, a family of ikat weavers and to a carpet-buyer's paradise — the Sunday market at Ashkabad. They are all featured on its last ever Embroidery and Textile Tour of the Silk Route cities of Central Asia. Departing September 22, the 15-day tour costs £2,195 for flights, accommodation and sightseeing.

Closer to home, discover Manchester's textile heritage with the help of a free leaflet, *The Centre of the Material World*. It has details of the wool, cotton, silk and felt mills and museums, including the Museum of Hatting and the Gallery of English Costume. It also lists weekend breaks from £65 to £80 for two nights' B&B. Details from Graham Fish (01204 395349).

Cargo cruise

SOME unusual cruises are included in the programme from Phoenix Tours (01323 410627) of mainly land-based holidays to Croatia, Slovenia, Italy, Cyprus and Ukraine. Using former cargo vessels, the 24 metre-long vintage sailing ships island-hop along the rugged Croatian coast, with lots of swimming and watersports, as well as consumption of wine and grappa (brandy) along the way. The ships, which come with crew and cook, accommodate 26 passengers in two multi-bedded cabins with shower and WC. Seven-day cruises cost from £371-£454, which also covers flights and half-board.

In Ukraine is a 14-day sea and river cruise on board the 129-metre *General Vatutin*, sailing from Kiev along the Dnipro river to the Black Sea. The ship drops anchor for sightseeing in Zaporizhzhya, birthplace of the Cossacks, Sebastopol, Odessa and Dnipropetrovsk (where the SS-20 missiles were produced). The ship carries 321 passengers in outside cabins with private facilities, and the trip next June costs £1,315 including flights and full board.

IMPACT

It's definitely a material world: the Sunday market at Ashkabad in Turkmenistan is a paradise for would-be carpet buyers

Right tracks

TWO rail trips next year should appeal to train buffs. A 15-day Coastal Pacific tour from Great Rail Journeys (01904 679969) uses a variety of rail transport between Vancouver and San Diego: one of Amtrak's new trains from Vancouver to Seattle, the Napa Valley Wine Train and the Coast Starlight with double-deck coaches. Included in the trip are tours of Vancouver, Seattle, San Francisco and San Diego with overnight stays in hotels, three nights in the beach resort of Santa Barbara and a coach trip to Tijuana in Mexico. The price of £1,750 also includes return flights from Heathrow.

The Cumbrian Mountain Express is a vintage train with 1950s coaches drawn by the steam engine *King Edward I* on the Settle and Carlisle line. Special day trips from London take place on March 14 and April 4 and cost from £59 for Club Class, £85 for saloon and £139 for Silver Service (this category includes meals). From Steamy Affairs (01553 828107).

AN amphibious wheelchair for disabled people is being offered free next summer at five resorts in Majorca — Palma Nova, Magaluf, Santa Ponsa, Peguera and Illetas. Designed by a Barcelona student, *the chair* can be wheeled into the sea. The wheelchairs will be available between June and September from the beaches' lifeguards. The disabled person must be accompanied by someone who can handle the chair.

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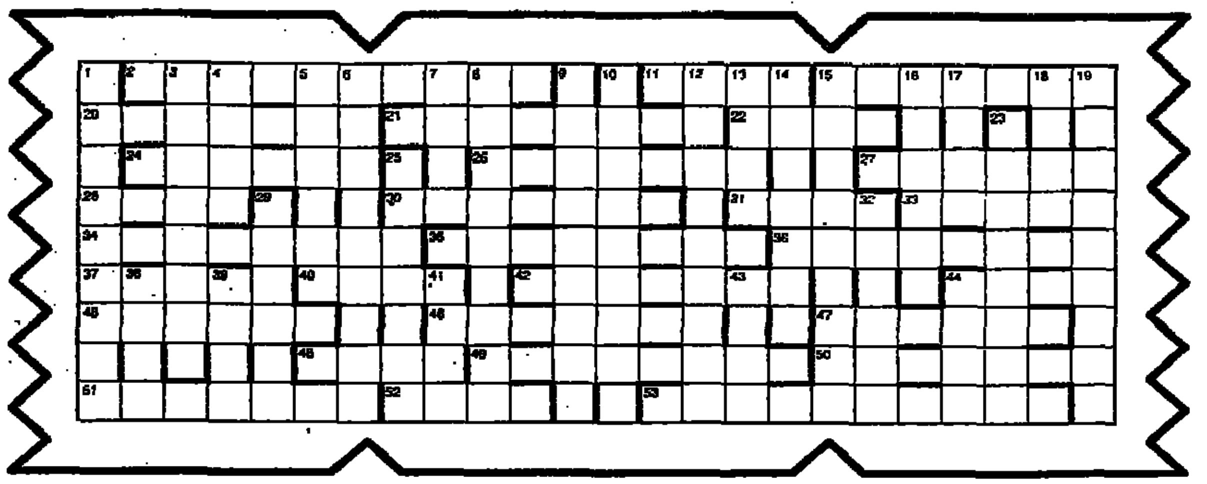
THE LISTENER CROSSWORD

No 3441: A Christmas Puzzle by Smokey

Champagne MOËT & CHANDON

Win a jeroboam of Moët & Chandon champagne in our festive Listener crossword competition. The closing date is January 15, 1998. Entries to: Christmas Listener Crossword, 63 Green Lane, St Albans, Hertfordshire AL3 6HE. The names of the winners will be published on January 17



CLUES are of two sorts: 34 clues lead to answers which contain a superfluous letter, alluded to in subsidiary clue indications and always appearing in a checked position in the grid. From the answer to the other 20 clues, a letter should be omitted wherever it occurs. Definitions refer to the full answer, whereas the subsidiary indication refers to the grid entry. Taken in clue order, the 34 extra letters spell out a question and the 20 omitted letters spell out a cryptic clue. Both lead to the same answer, which will enable the puzzle to be completed. Numbers indicate the lengths of corresponding lights. *Chambers* (1993) is recommended, but does not give a feminine form, nor two proper names.

ACROSS

2 'Have no supply of beef after onset of BSE': disheartened cook's grouse (10)
11 Young devil gets one million on credit (4)
15 Divine presence coils round, enveloping male (7)
20 Hammer home, as it were, to old gents, including royal (7)
21 Group that is seen on motor-bike heading off (8)
22 Irish, seven days on, weary (4)
24 Who might serve ingredients of crêpe at end of 'rue'? (6)
26 Large feline, child hater? The reverse (7)
27 Fast runners, perhaps, going round Illinois (6)
28 Popular song, No. 5 in charts (4)
30 Faction member, one's advanced capital (7)
31 Opening in party (4)
33 Cease giving school group work (5)
34 Famous personality turning round corner following greetings (8, 2 words)
36 Part of baby's bottle I found about five o'clock? (8)
37 Middle part of carol by soprano lacking substance, performed in a certain way (5)
40 Judge East has somewhere to sit (on boat?) (4)
42 Cake Charlie baked (7)
44 Soap bubbles in heated bath (4)
45 Piece of communion bread gypsy brought round prior to sermon (6)
46 Kick ball round carriage and boat (7)
47 *Sexy female, hot one embracing roue excitedly* (6)
48 Fabric for bait (4)
49 Dye could provide nicer colour? Not half (8)
50 People at the bar not getting drunk every month (7)
51 Ferments in vats? Yes, oddly enough (7)
52 One chap that's not soft (4)
53 Insect found in files stuffed into storage container (10)

DOWN

1 Striker, mostly old one, outwardly showing signs of scurvy (9)
3 Spy nuts put into f-fruit puree served up, and chops (8, 2 words)
4 High voice? Allocate odd parts only (4)
5 King, alone standing up to embrace Queen, dances (6)
6 Former athlete, note, training with American contemporary (9)
7 Eastern currency, formerly enough for circulation (4)
8 Lid of coffin managed to be fitted into hearse? Here's some funeral music (9)
9 Cordial, cheeky sort entertaining pervert (9)
10 Having no fancy minstrel music of yore, yell out (9)
12 Within a mile, see seeds of corn and a fern genus (9)
13 Greeting twice: that's affected (4)
14 I'll be replaced by professional at start of opening piece, without delay (7)
15 Indian teacher goes round dilapidated shed, a product of his country (9)
16 Recorder gets protection with thanks (6)
17 This skittle is later smashed in Strike Alley (4)
18 Start of a geological period (4)
19 Straight struggle involving past figure (9)
23 Capture ancient symbol of wood (8)
25 US writer featured in song, followed by a dance (7)
29 Females gathering in lots of dosh? (6)
32 Antarctic explorer, one with toes unaffected if below zero? (6)
38 Fashion newspaper (4)
39 The case of the Steamship Four (4)
41 Be upstanding, introducing European Community music-maker (4)
43 H-help for a deeply religious sort (4)
44 Diocese is where you'll find some of these sermonisers (4)

The solution and notes for No 3438 is on page 2

CHRISTMAS BRIDGE COMPETITION

by Robert Sheehan

Champagne MOËT & CHANDON

Win a jeroboam of Moët & Chandon. Entries to: Christmas Bridge, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN, by January 13. Winner will be published on January 17.

1. South is the dealer at rubber bridge, and this is the auction:

S	W	N	E
1 C	Pass	1 H	Pass
1 S	Pass	?	

What would you bid as North on this hand: (10 points)
♠Q32 ♥A9832 ♦95 ♣KQ7

2. My partner and I missed a good penalty on this rubber bridge hand.
Love all Dlr West Rubber Bridge

North: ♠AJ10 ♥KQ10 ♦A10 ♣KQJ84
West: ♠KQ942 ♥5 ♦6 ♣A107632
East: ♠76 ♥AJ942 ♦KQJ83 ♣9
South: ♠853 ♥8763 ♦97542 ♣5

S	W	N	E
-	1C	Dble	Redble
1 D	1 S	2 NT	Dble
3 C	Pass	Pass	Pass

The contract went three down. Which was (a) the worst bid, (b) the *most imaginative bid and* (c) the wettest bid. I have chosen one in category (a) and two in (b) and (c): if you select my first choice you get five points, for my second choice you get two points.

3. You need four tricks from this combination:

AJ654
Q92

There are no problems with entries.
a) Which is the best play? (5 points)
b) What is the second best play, and where does it lose to the best play? (5 points)

4. How would you play Seven *Diamonds from the West hand on* the lead of the king of clubs? There has been no opposition bidding. (10 points).

West	East
AKQ63	J9
Q8	A973
A10853	KQJ
9	AJ63

5. Who in 1997 have I described in *The Times* as a) intrepid; b) ebullient; c) formidable? Three points each.

Tie-breaker: Give an entertaining excuse for a mistake — acid, implausible or amusing. Maximum 20 words.

TWO BRAINS

From page 22

Question 1:
Wednesday, the sum of alpha positions (A = 1 etc)
Question 2:
a) Jasper
b) Myrtle
c) Basil
d) Louis

CHESS

by Raymond Keene

LAST week I promised a review of the latest text on the sharp Dragon variation of the Sicilian Defence. This has always been a great favourite with aggressive players such as Britain's Tony Miles, and Kasparov himself uncorked it as his secret weapon in the 1995 World Championship match.

If you can master its intricacies from either side you will certainly reap a rich reward in extra points scored. There is no more extensive guide than *The Complete Dragon* by Gufeld and Stetsko (Batsford, £17.99). However, to extract the full message readers must be prepared to absorb no fewer than 352 pages of complex variations and subvariations, further complicated by huge transpositional possibilities. This week's game shows how effective the Dragon was in Kasparov's hands when his challenger in the World Championship was caught by surprise.

White: Viswanathan Anand; Black: Garry Kasparov
World Championship, New York 1995
Sicilian Defence

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6
3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6
5 Nc3 g6!

Since Kasparov had no recorded *tournament game with the Dragon*, Anand cannot have expected it and certainly did not prepare against it. The Dragon, by the way, derives its name from a fanciful resemblance between Black's kingside and centre pawn structure and that of the shape of the mythical beast.

6 Be3 Bg7 7 f3 0-0
8 Qd2 Nc6 9 Bc4 Bd7
10 0-0-0 Ne5 11 Bb3 Rc8

The Dragon theme is clear. The players castle on opposite sides and will proceed to hack against each other's kings.

12 h4 h5

A move favoured by Grandmasters Soltis, Mestel and Miles, the idea being to block White's attack in its tracks. Kasparov said after the game that if White cannot engineer g4, his attack is going nowhere.

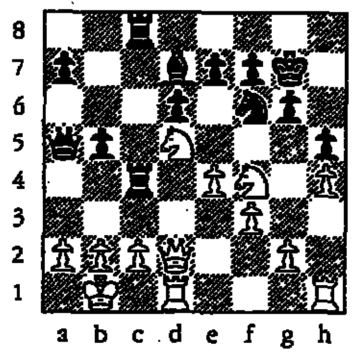
13 Kb1 Nc4 14 Bxc4 Rxc4
15 Nde2 b5 16 Bh6 Qa5

As Gufeld and Stetsko point out in their book, Black can now meet 17 Nd5 with 17 ... Qxd2 18 Nxe7+ Kh7 19 Bxd2 Nxe4 as a neat tactical trick, ensuring active counterplay.

17 Bxg7 Kxg7 18 Nf4

Here the Russian authors recommend the manoeuvre 18 Nc1 followed by Nb3.

18 ... Rfc8 19 Ncd5



White sees no alternative but to transpose into a level ending. Black is already threatening an advantageous sacrifice on c3.

19 ... Qxd2 20 Rxd2 Nxd5
21 Nxd5 Kf8

It is quite reasonable to defend the e7-pawn, but Kasparov soon starts to complicate the issue by allowing White to take it in certain variations. By continually offering such bait, Kasparov encourages Anand to overestimate his own position.

22 Re1 Rb8 23 b3 Rc5
24 Nf4 Rbc8
25 Kb2 a5 26 a3 Kg7!

Kasparov deliberately removes the protection of his e-pawn and Anand becomes over-excited.

27 Nd5 Be6
28 b4?

The right move was to play the immediate 28 Nxe7 when the following variation is forced: 28 ... Re8 29 Nd5 Bxd5 30 b4 axb4 31 axb4 Rc4 32 Rxd5 Rxb4+ 33 Kc1 f5 34 Rxd6 fxe4 35 Kd2 when a draw is more or less unavoidable.

28 ... axb4 29 axb4 Rc4
30 Nb6??

This move is over-optimistic. Anand overlooks the trick that Kasparov had prepared long in advance. He was obliged to play 30 Nxe7 when 30 ... Rxb4+ 31 Kc1 Ba2 32 Rxd6 Rb1+ 33 Kd2 Rxc2+ 34 Kxc2 Rxe1 leaves Black with what winning chances there are, but this was far preferable to the text.

30 ... Rxb4+31 Ka3 Rxc2!

This extraordinary tactic in a simplified position leaves Black two clear pawns ahead after either 32 Kxb4 Rxd2 or 32 Rxc2 Rb3+ 33 Ka2 Re3+ 34 Kb2 Rxe1.

White resigns

WINNING MOVES

Champagne MOËT & CHANDON

By Raymond Keene

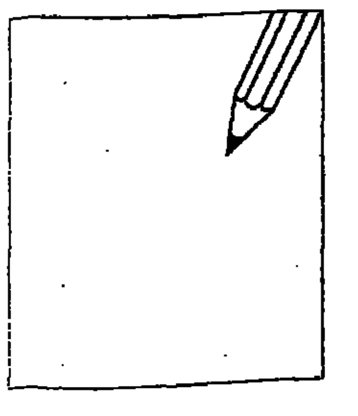
White to play. This position is from the game Short - Biyiasis, Hastings 1980.
How did the young Nigel Short conclude this game, played in one of his first major international events?

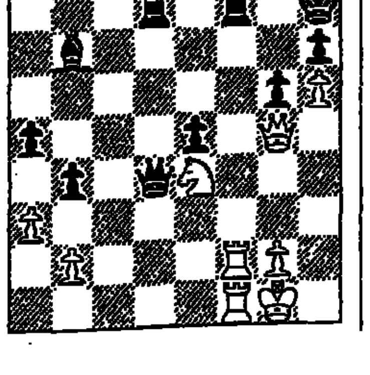
The first correct answer drawn on Thursday will also win a year's subscription to the Staunton Society. Answers on a postcard please addressed to Winning Move competition, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN.

Win a jeroboam of Moët & Chandon champagne. The closing date is January 15. Send your entries to: Christmas Winning Moves, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The winners' names will be published on January 17

The answer will be published next Saturday.

Last week's solution:
1 ... Rh1+





COMPUTER GAMES AND PASTIMES

by Tim Wapshott

Champagne MOËT & CHANDON

Win a jeroboam of Moët & Chandon champagne in our festive quiz.

THESE posers are taken from three widely available CD-Roms. Study the questions and choose one of the multiple answers. Mark your choices on a postcard, along with name, address and home telephone number. Send to: Computer Games & Pastimes Quiz 97, Weekend, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN.

Illegible entries will be disqualified and the judges' decision is final. Your entry must arrive by December 31. If more than one person correctly answers all questions, the winner will be the first one out of the hat.

1. These words can be arranged to form a sentence. Is this sentence true or false? Never sleep big dogs.
a true **b** false **c** neither

2. Which British royal said when a footman spilt cream on him: "My God man, I'm not a strawberry"?
a Duke of Edinburgh **b** Henry VIII **c** Edward VII

3. Whose leg injury in August this year knocked £8.6 million overnight from his company's stock market value?
a Ryan Giggs **b** Alan Shearer **c** *Alan Sugar*

4. In this series, what number comes next? 1, 4, 8, 13.
a 17 **b** 18 **c** 19

5. Who said, on being asked *during* an interview if he would say something about his songs: "Yeah, some of them are about ten minutes long, others five or six"?
a Des O'Connor **b** Robbie Williams **c** Bob Dylan

6. Brine is to salt as punch is to what?
a Judy **b** sugar **c** hit

7. When did Muhammad Ali become undisputed heavyweight champion of the world for the second time?
a 1973 **b** 1974 **c** 1975

8. Who said, at an exhibition of drawings by children: "When I was *their age, I could draw like* Raphael, but it took me a lifetime to learn to draw like them."
a Rolf Harris **b** Roy Lichtenstein **c** Pablo Picasso

9. In what event did Eddie "The Eagle" compete?
a ski jumping **b** snow boarding **c** tobogganing

10. If all fish can walk, then trout can
a dance **b** fly **c** walk

11. 186,000 miles per second is
a the speed of light **b** a law we can *live with* **c** *the speed of bananas*

12. Who said: "If someone asks for a soft drink at a party, we no longer think he is a wimp."
a Norma Major **b** Edwina Currie **c** *Mo Mowlam*

13. What 1997-98 Premiership football club has a ground which might be named after a nut?
a Leicester City **b** Arsenal **c** Manchester United

14. Phil gets twice as large a share of the profits as any of his three partners, who get equal shares. What per cent of the entire profits is Phil's?
a 40 per cent **b** 50 per cent **c** 66.67 per cent

Clockwise from top left: Vivienne Westwood, Winston Churchill, Edwina Currie and Bob Dylan

15. Who began a letter to T.E. Lawrence, who had by then retired from public life to become Aircraftsman Brown, 338171: "Dear 338171 (May I call you 338?)"
a Tennessee Williams **b** Winston Churchill **c** Noël Coward

16. Who is the only boxer to hold three undisputed world titles simultaneously?
a Henry Cooper **b** Henry Armstrong **c** Henry Kissinger

17. In a given month, Monday is the 21st day of the month. What day of the week was the 1st of the month?
a Tuesday **b** Thursday **c** Sunday

18. Harold Shonenberg said of which singer, in *The Times* on June 30, 1981: "His vocal cords were kissed by God"?
a Luciano Pavarotti **b** Placido Domingo **c** José Carreras

19. Mr Jones is usually clear and direct of speech, yet his remarks today were uncharacteristically what?
a superficial **b** obscure **c** servile

20. Ten men can paint 30 houses in 60 days, so five men can paint 15 houses in:
a 15 days **b** 30 days **c** 60 days

21. *Who said of whom:* "He was over-dressed, pompous, snobbish, sentimental and vain. But he had an undeniable flair for the possibilities of commercial theatre"?
a Tim Rice of Andrew Lloyd Webber **b** Bernard Manning of Jim Davidson **c** Evelyn Waugh of Oscar Wilde

22. Roads always have
a lines **b** width **c** lighting

23. How many numbers, between 100 and 300, begin or end with the figure 2?
a 100 **b** 110 **c** 120

24. Who has scored the most Test runs in a career playing for the West Indies?
a Viv Richards **b** Viv Westwood **c** Vic Reeves

25. Who wrote: "Who controls the past controls the future. Who controls the present controls the past"?
a William Shakespeare **b** George Orwell **c** Jeffrey Archer

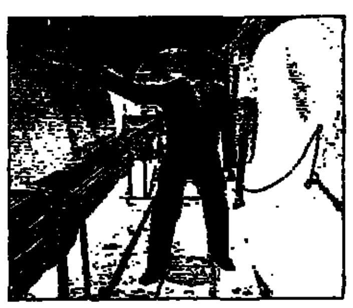
NEW SOFTWARE

MEN IN BLACK, the game translation of the summer box-office sizzler, is not entirely satisfying. The fault does not lie in the idea but in its execution. Guiding one of the three natty government agents, J, K and L, you must stop aliens exterminating mankind. To help, you are put through a variety of training programmes, none of which is quite so effective as the vast weapon arsenal you amass.

This starts with a bog-standard side arm, progressing to more lethal pulsar blasters and pulsar arm canons. Should you be injured during an exchange of fire with the *opposition, Medikits replenish* your health. These can be held in your inventory until needed.

Gremlin Interactive's game looks reasonable. There are 200 locations to trawl with a good mix of action and puzzle-solving. The settings look fine but the problem is with the characters as they move across the screen. From the over-the-shoulder vantage point you *move your letter of the* alphabet character awkwardly across the screen, with the look and feel of yesterday's technology.

In the Alone in the Dark series, when gormless characters met obstacles such as walls, they walked on the spot regardless, and here the creaking, lazy style is back.
■ **Verdict: 7 out of 10. Action game of mixed appeal. £29.99.**



Men in Black: awkward

EUROPRESS gave music education a boost by making it a blast for teenagers with the Interactive Songbook idea. First up was Oasis in the summer. In time for Christmas are the next three in the series: Blur, Sting & The Police and INXS.

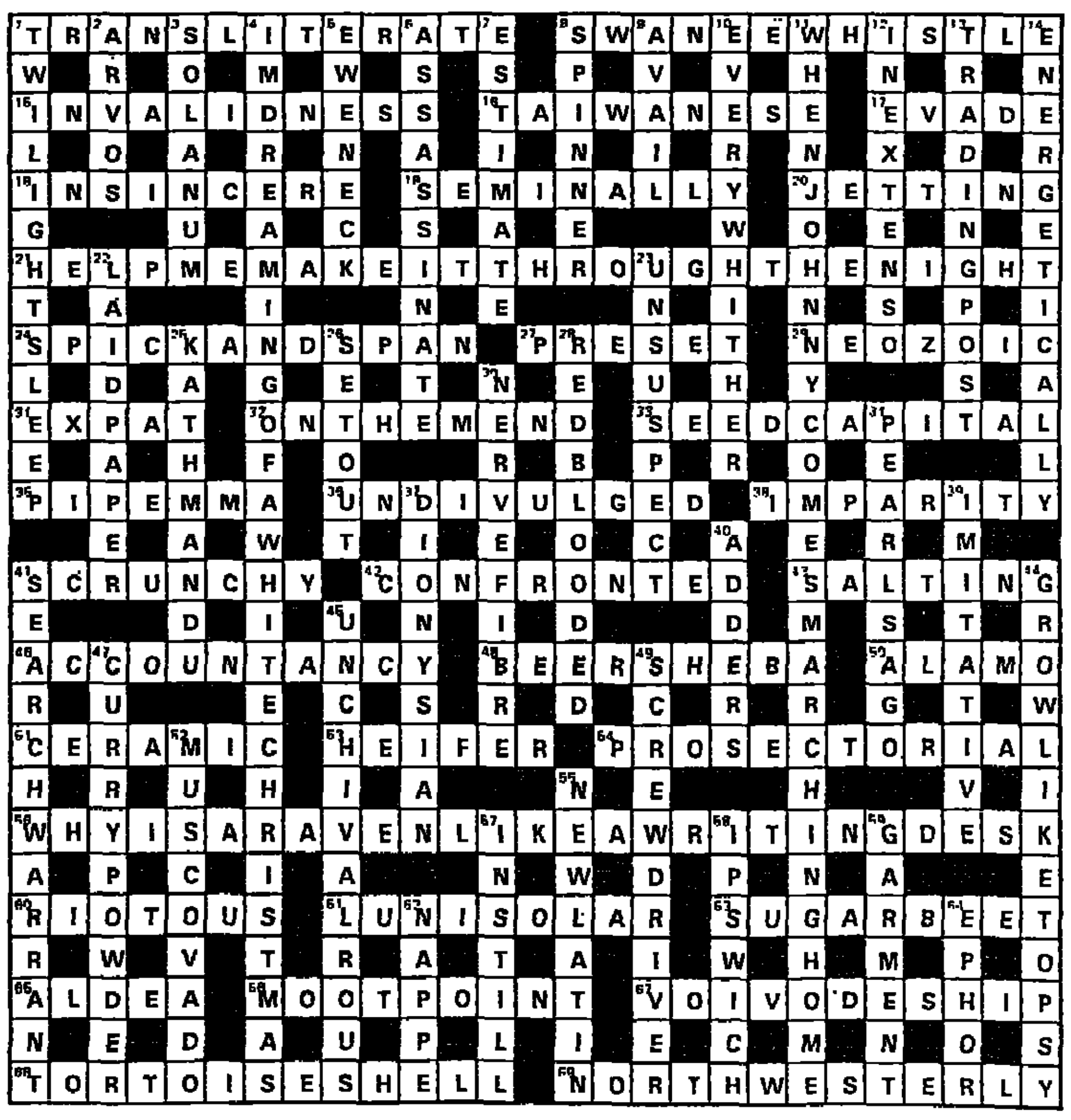
The titles each feature their artists' well-known songs, broken down into easily digested guitar, keyboard and vocal parts. Original *recordings are used, and there is a* delicate simplicity to the information imparted. Guitar notes, for instance, are illustrated with graphics showing how each chord should be played while lyrics flash like a karaoke machine.

The music can be paused anywhere in a song or repeated endlessly, with guitar and keyboard parts played in isolation, to *make lighter* work of practising. There are also biography and discography databases.

The Blur Interactive Songbook comes on three discs and is built around the band's *Parklife* album, which spawned hits such as *Girls & Boys, To the End* and *Parklife*. The Sting title, also on three discs, is based on his greatest hits album, covering Police classics such as *Message In a Bottle* to solo works such as *Englishman in New York*.

The INXS Interactive Songbook features ten tracks on two CD-Roms, taken from the band's 1994 hit compilation, such as *Need You Tonight* and *The Devil Inside*.
■ **Verdict: 8 out of 10. Music tutors using original recordings. £29.99.**

SOLUTION TO JUMBO CROSSWORD 139



The winner of an Alfred Dunhill AD2000, worth £125, is R.H. Fisher of Bedworth, Warwickshire

MODERN MANNERS

by John Morgan

Send your queries to Morgan's Modern Manners, The Times, *Weekend, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN.*

Q **My 80-year-old mother (very compos mentis) likes to play word games (as we all do). My mother likes winning (who doesn't?), but lately she will actually, barefacedly cheat. We had always enjoyed our word-game evenings, and cheating would have been unthinkable. She is not the sort you could easily confront with this. How can we clean up her game? Before Christmas? — Darrel S. Boote, Cambridge.**

A Use flattery, first to lower your mother's defences and then go in for the kill. Next time you get together to play a game ask her: "I think some of us are getting rather confused about the rules, perhaps you could take us through them?" Then, when she starts to cheat, exclaim: "But Mummy, I thought you said that one only gets extra points if the word has four syllables?" Although she might not be shamed into submission, she should realise that she has been outflanked by cunning.

Q **How does one discover whether one's wedding present arrived safely if there is no letter of thanks received? I don't want to ask the bride's mother, but we would like to know that the bride and groom received our present sent in September 1996. — Name and address withheld.**

A Make the most of that useful little seasonal missive, the Christmas card, to find out whether your present ever arrived. Just write "We do hope our wedding present reached you both safely, and that you like it". This polite reminder of their rudeness should ensure a grovelling reply by return of post. If not, I suggest you excise this couple not just from your Christmas card list but from your present list, too.

Q **Apropos hats at funerals, could you comment on the appropriateness of middle-aged female mourners flashing their pins? The Spencer clan have lost the only member of that illustrious family who could show a leg to advantage. Similarly, female royal legs (and for all I know, male ones too) are better imagined than seen. — Derek Brooks, Cranleigh, Surrey.**

A I quite agree. Your letter reminds me of the recent funeral of an Australian rock musician where there was an excessive amount of woeful flesh on show. Such displays are inappropriate because they juxtapose two quite different and conflicting human activities: grieving and sexual display. Most people feel uncomfortable with this unholy combination, and thus mourners of both sexes should stick to sober dress at funerals, not just out of respect for the dead, but also mindful of the sensibilities of the living.

Q **Apropos guests and laundry (Weekend, Saturday November 29th): Is it acceptable, after a nightmare journey of traffic jams, to demonstrate on a map an alternative route home for the guest on arrival, or should it be delayed? If the latter, could it be construed as a hint to leave?**
Dr James Pilpel, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire.

A Mindful that the first rule of hospitality is to make your guest feel welcome immediately, I would say: "Oh, poor you, the motorway can be murder. Do remind me to go through the back route with you before you leave." Then offer him a drink.

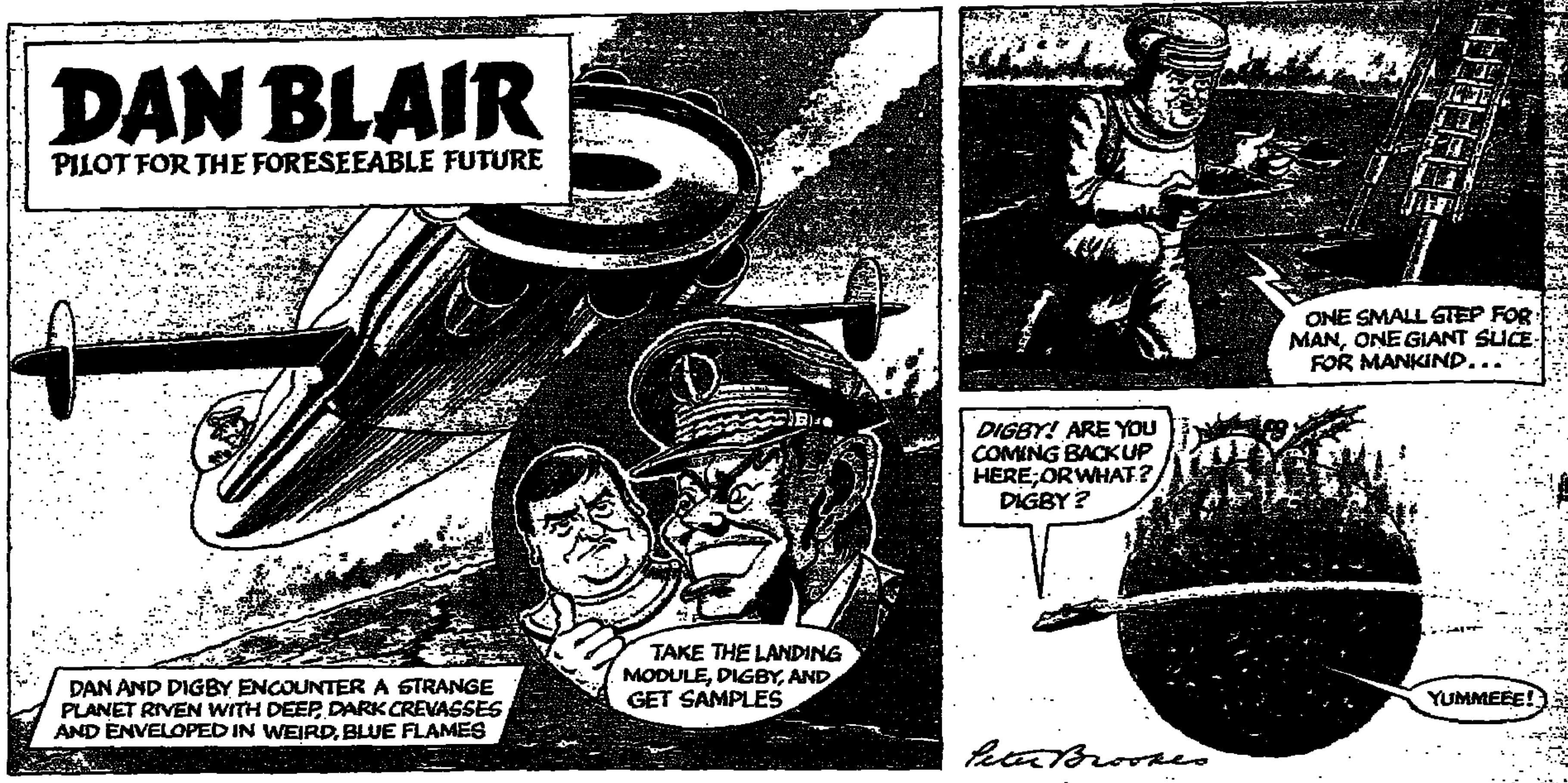
Q **With Christmas almost upon us again we are besieged by friends trying to sell us charity Christmas cards and asking us to donate to their various causes. We already give to two charities and have limited means. How can we politely refuse these demands? — Mrs N Derwentwater, Perthshire.**

A Charities are extremely clever at utilising the network marketing approach to maximise their gains, particularly at Christmas. This being said, good manners do not require the "good will to all men" cliché to be taken too far. Next time you are confronted by a well-meaning but pushy friend just say: "I think it is absolutely brilliant that so many of our friends are involved in charity work (Davina is working for Save the Centipede Appeal this Christmas!). We are not nearly so organised so we just give all our donations to our regular two charities. In this way we feel we are making generous contributions to specific projects rather than spreading ourselves too thinly".

Q **As a young man I understood that when wearing evening dress and white tie, the jacket should never show the white of the waistcoat when you lifted your arm. Nowadays I see eminent politicians, concert soloists and the like showing vast expanses of white waistcoat. Was I wrongly informed? — B.M. Rawkinson, Leatherhead, Surrey.**

A You were quite correctly informed. However, as few men actually possess their own tail coats nowadays many hire ill-fitting sets of evening clothes when they need them. Also, some men mistakenly choose to wear straight-topped trousers rather than the traditional high-waisted brace variety, and thus need longer waistcoats. But let's not gripe too much about such minutiae, and simply be grateful instead that modern men still choose to wear this most flattering form of dress.

● *John Morgan is Associate Editor of GQ*

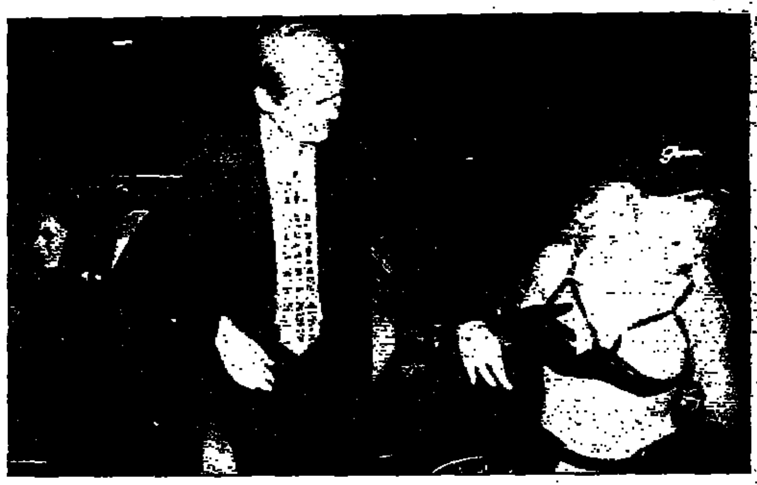

DAN BLAIR
PILOT FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE
DAN AND DIGBY ENCOUNTER A STRANGE PLANET RIVEN WITH DEEP, DARK CREVASSES AND ENVELOPED IN WEIRD, BLUE FLAMES
TAKE THE LANDING MODULE, DIGBY, AND GET SAMPLES
ONE SMALL STEP FOR MAN, ONE GIANT SLICE FOR MANKIND...
DIGBY! ARE YOU COMING BACK UP HERE, OR WHAT? DIGBY?
YUMMEEE!
Peter Brookes

PICTURE LINE

It is the monster on our right who is cutting our allowance

Champagne
MOËT & CHANDON

Win a jeroboam of Moët & Chandon by suggesting what William Hague, Ffion Jenkins or the stripper might be saying. Send suggestions on a postcard with your name and address to PictureLine, Weekend, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, E1 9XN. The closing date is December 29.
Last week's winning caption, left, was submitted by R. Samuelson, of Fleet, Hampshire.



WORD WATCHING

By Philip Howard

KANKEDORT
a. A South African antelope
b. A sailing-barge
c. A problem

MUINEIRA
a. Spanish armoury
b. A collection box
c. Song and dance

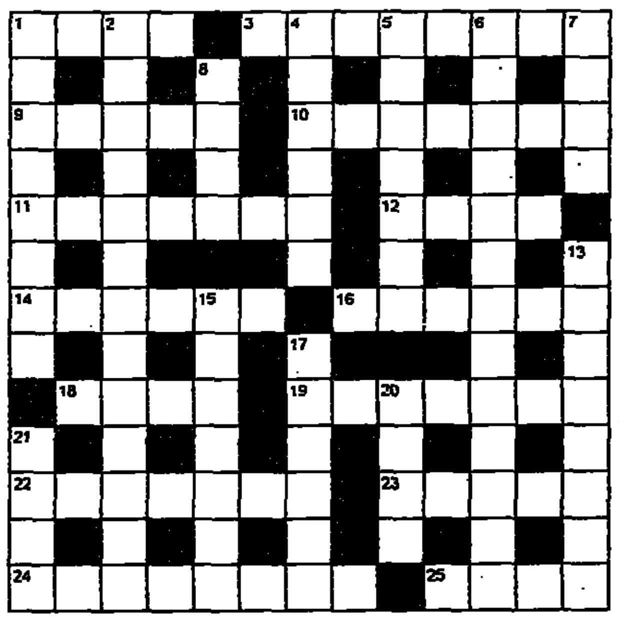
VIOLON D'INGRES
a. A pastime
b. A lyre
c. The way-in

LIMBATION
a. Bordering
b. Arthritis
c. Exercise

Answers on page 16

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 1282



ACROSS
1 To sieve, sort (4)
3 A dog: part of Canada (8)
9 Creepy (5)
10 Obsessed person (7)
11 A dog: indication (7)
12 Scot. town: part of candle (4)
14 Discourtesy: unimportant (6)
16 Dig (field): (the) Great Bear (6)
18 Improvised music (4)
19 George I its Elector (7)
22 First letter (7)
23 Casals', du Pré's instrument (5)
24 Holiness (8)
25 Peruse, study (4)

DOWN
1 Abashed (8)
2 Defensive strengthening (13)
4 Provide: be able to pay for (6)
5 (Book) loan extension (7)
6 Fr. writer on eg US democ racy (2,11)
7 Wrinkle: loose scrum (4)
8 Slit in jacket: aperture (4)
13 Robin Hood's forest (8)
15 William —, *Table Talk* au thor (7)
17 Swiss cottage (6)
20 Narrow part of bottle (4)
21 Prejudice: cut across weave (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1281
ACROSS: 1 Peccadillo 9 Amiable 10 Movie 11 Sulk 12 Spinster 14 Narrow 15 Hectic 18 Mischief 20 Brim 22 April 23 Ovation 24 Separatist
DOWN: 2 Elba 3 Creepy 4 Demented 5 Lovat 6 One-track mind 7 Ways and means 8 Pillar 13 Potholer 16 Torpid 17 Revolt 19 Strap 21 Pass

TWO BRAINS

WILLIAM Klein in Rhode Island in 1982, when aged 70, multiplied two five-digit numbers mentally in 42 seconds. Try it for yourself before resorting to the calculator. The two numbers he was randomly given were: 57825 x 1348

Question 1:
If FRIDAY = 63 and SUNDAY = 84, what day = 100?

Question 2:
Can you think of people's names which answer these clues?
a) Highly coloured variety of quartz?
b) Evergreen: emblem of love?
c) Plant of the mint family?
d) French gold coin?

If you would like a Mensa home test, or information, call 01902 772771 or write to *Mensa*, FREEPOST, Wolverhampton WV2 1BR

Answers on page 21 R.K.

CHRISTMAS JUMBO CROSSWORD 141

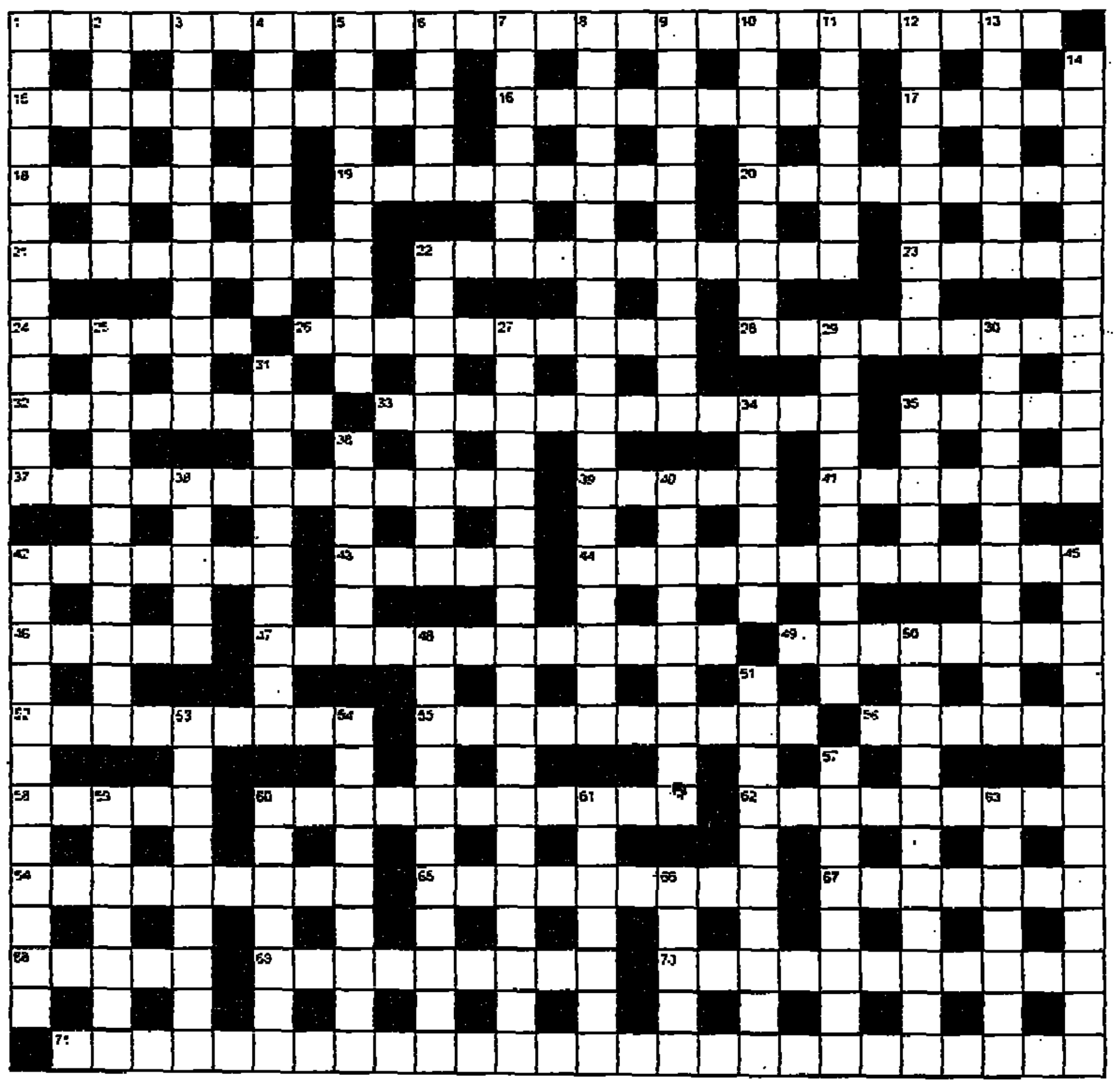
ACROSS
1 It's not clear the time is ripe for these features of last season (5,3,6,12)
15 Twine easily made to overlap, so as to bind (11)
16 Suffering from exhaustion, appeal is rejected — bloody characteristic (9)
17 Entrance with impudence (5)
18 Get into argument, all about symbol of king hiding in tree (7)
19 Malicious type's faulty will dished heirs (3-6)
20 Endless drama to secure job assignment (9)
21 Diver's union blockading an entrance to seaport (9)
22 Go to inspect deceased at back of Paddington home — a doctor's being brought in (11)
23 Virgil's works can be staged with music (5)
24 Cloth fibres and similar (6)
26 *Two calls for quiet work — stop work* altogether (4,2,4)
28 Taken to court about pass being held up (9)
32 Planned to get one set of books finished (8)
33 Row at work, where one has to make up (8,4)
35 Italian poet relaxed in this way? (5)
37 Military leader seems original in manoeuvres (13)
39 Wood used in popular chair (5)
41 Supporter of refreshments makes *milk supplier beam* (3,4)
42 Two-timer said to be a fast runner (7)
43 Almost intoxicated, offered French confection (5)
44 Echoing call to reform, applying scientific principles (13)
46 Composer unaffected by rejection (5)
47 Low humour from this reactionary officer (7,5)
49 Book I loaned out from library (8)
52 *Mutuality almost having collapsed,* start to murmur threat (9)
55 Made net safe, replacing part sent back — secure again (10)
56 Solve Gordius's problem? Doubly *negative, we hear* (6)
58 Fine weather holds appeal for girl (5)
60 Ruthless as Richard III? (4-7)
62 Extremes of temper — instinctive not to become exceptionally wounding (9)
64 One's prepared to avoid a certain amount of pain (9)
65 He'll plan to help you to make your pile (9)
67 One turning back to see leader abandoning Italian king (7)
68 Announcer once expressing grief? (5)
69 Brew is steamed in cup (9)
70 Success with tree: measure of work to be put in with new shrub (11)
71 Four hussars, say, presented thus to Gilbert's Captain (5,6,3,3,5,4)

DOWN
1 Being in overall charge of TV quiz (13)
2 Writer can be a bit of a bore (7)
3 In extremely scary country, policeman in stress taken off the beat (11)
4 Feature of Christmas tree — at end of Christmas, it's superfluous (8)
5 Mum's the word for the leaders of this society (10)
6 True mixture of metals with aluminium replaced (5)
7 Deviant result published — inaccurate statement, right? (7)
8 Ringing question there's no need to ask — once you provided the answer (3,4,3,4,5)
9 Stint done in insufficently flexible way (11)
10 Players use one article and another in turns (9)
11 Where 10 goes back, with raised leg (7)
12 Union has capital in Switzerland — *admitting nothing is most important* (6,3)
13 Contract amounting to blackmail? (7)
14 Horse planned to shy, being skittish (8,4)
22 Kelvin shortly identified this metal (9)
25 Affect gravity to present a more rounded figure (3,2,6)
27 Artist in right old mess over two girls (5,5,9)
29 Work till you drop, in two ways (5,5)
30 Entertainment one may be frantic to be driven to (11)
31 Suicide mission — no mouse would volunteer to do it (4,3,3)
34 In sweet cover, hard Chinese book (1,5)
35 Hint about wife's ring (5)
36 Woman that is left about to cry (6)
38 *One going round in car, and able to* offer a lift (5)
40 The French like to tear round and give advice (9)
42 What should be considered, *following pomp in ceremony* (12)
45 Fingernail cut badly — there are a few cracked here (7,6)
48 Prime Minister on holiday — that's a blow (5-6)
50 *Executive role* with real meaning, perhaps (4,7)
51 Shut in, having a drink on a small scale (10)
53 People, I agree sadly, can be a lot of *animals* (9)
54 Town wants extra bank right away (9)
57 Islanders have combatant forces in centre of operations (8)
59 After interval, I call for quiet, making speech abroad (7)
60 Hard and sharp-sounding, being Jewish (7)
61 Go sick, wanting nurse round — one comes at last (4,3)
63 Missile ripped round stern of ship — finish! (7)
66 Man *picked winners, selecting five in* a row (5)

Champagne
MOËT & CHANDON

Win a Methuselah of Moët & Chandon champagne and an Alfred Dunhill AD2000. The closing date is January 15, 1998. Send entries to: Christmas Jumbo Crossword, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. Winners will be published on January 17.

ALFRED DUNHILL
LONDON



NAME ....
ADDRESS ....
.... POSTCODE ....

TIMES TWO

Christmas Jumbo

There are no prizes for this crossword. The *answers will be published on December 30*

ACROSS
1 "We are — " (insubstantial) (*Prospero*) (4,5,2,6,3,4,2)
15 Cane product; *rue starving* (*anag.*) (6,5)
16 Contamination (9)
17 Get cracking (3,2): fight (3-2)
18 Classify (7)
19 Refill (9)
20 Departure from norm (9)
21 *'Wild West' holiday centre* (4,5)
22 Second-highest civilian bravery award (6,5)
23 At right angles to ship's length (5)
24 *Likely to happen* (4-2)
26 Antelope; *be sat there* (*anag.*) (10)
28 Cardinal, Louis XIII's minister (9)
32 Pretender (8)
33 Out of control (12)
35 TV, press, etc (5)
37 One with solid yolk (4-6,3)
39 Having come up (5)
41 Snake: insidious person (7)
42 Ancient war vehicle (7)
43 Vision: view (5)
44 Backwards (ship) (5,5)
46 Away; in reserve (5)
47 Stern questioner (12)
49 For procedure's sake: type of invoice (3,5)
52 Had inside (9)
55 Melody makers (10)
56 *Loving touch* (6)
58 Fr. town; a heavy Burgundy (5)
60 Lovers of Russia (11)
62 Hideous, hateful (9)
64 Small cup of coffee (9)
65 Squared-stone masonry (9)
67 Morally uplifted (7)
68 Leonhard —, Swiss mathematician (5)
69 Found: educ. establishment (9)
70 Caribbean (for pirates once) (7,4)
71 *Unmistakeable* (2,5,2,3,4,2,4,4)

DOWN
1 Soldierly smartness (4,3,6)
2 With a lid on (7)
3 (Eg bank) vaults (11)
4 Blind (8)
5 *Notional chief* (10)
6 Thin piece: undress (5)
7 (Baroque) accompanying instruments (7)
8 *He overvalues what he has* (3,3,5,3,5)
9 Hampshire port (11)
10 One launching new incursion (9)
11 Mixed-breed dog (7)
12 Belittle, deride (9)
13 Silhouette (7)
14 Walking in sleep (12)
22 Movable-type pioneer (9)
25 Expulsion from state (11)
27 Stopped the show (7,4,3,5)
29 Chequered play area (10)
30 Eventually (2,3,6)
31 Paul addressee (10)
34 Sort of fruit, of republic (6)
35 A code, an Inspector (5)
36 Room of one's own (6)
38 Newly-wed (5)
40 *Lives of Caesars* author (9)
42 Accidental homicide (6-6)
45 Surpassing condition (13)
48 One relying on reason (11)
50 Torches; camera bulbs (11)
51 *(Bread) made with all the wheat* (10)
53 Plainly cooked; naked (Fr.) (2,7)
54 Indigestion (9)
57 *Roman emperor; medicinal plant* (8)
59 Cotton-wool cloud (7)
60 *William Tell* composer (7)
61 S. Am. plainsman (7)
63 Jap. Ryukyu island, US base (7)
66 Number of magazine (5)